

2024 SIGNING DAY ISSUE

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

ALSO INSIDE

TEXAS BOWL

THE PORTAL & NIL

AGGIE SIGNEES

AND MORE...



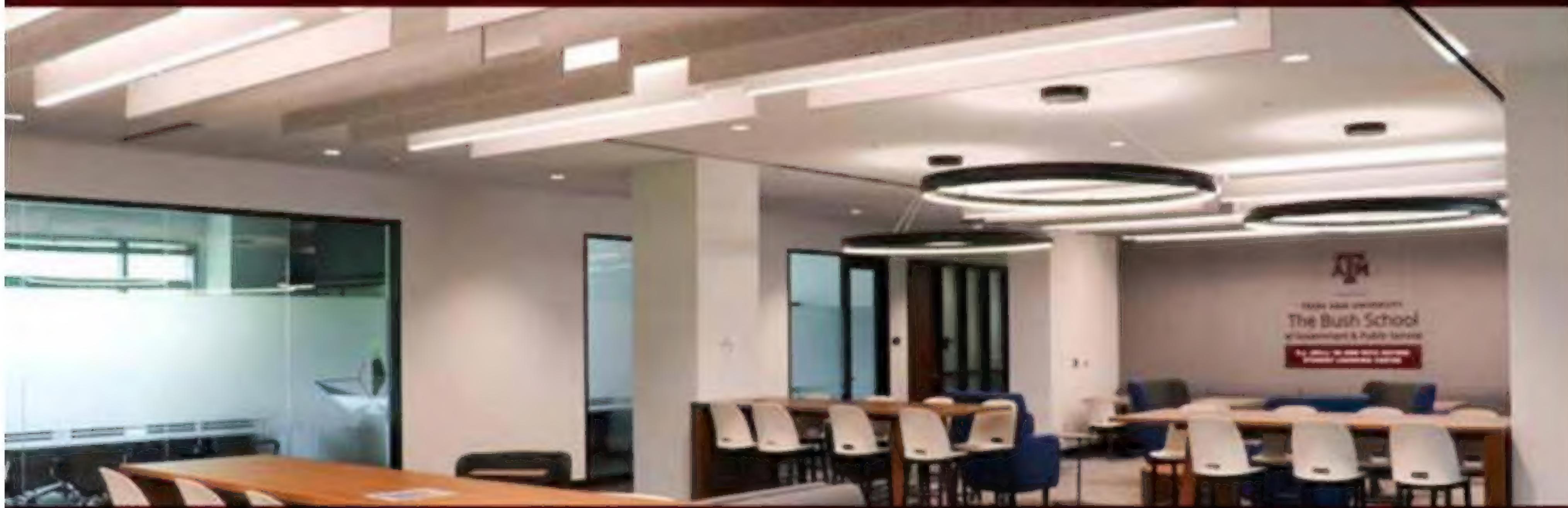
DOWN GOES
KENTUCKY & TENNESSEE



0 3>

FEBRUARY/MARCH • \$3.95

A BRUSH ABOVE SERVICES



SERVING THE PAINT, DRYWALL, AND CONSTRUCTION NEEDS OF COLLEGE STATION RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES SINCE 2005!

CALL US AT: (979) 704-3077 OR VISIT ABAS.BUILD FOR MORE INFO!



**GEORGE H.W. BUSH
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM**



**A Spirit Can Ne'er Be Told...
A Century of Aggie Football**



George & Barbara
BUSH FOUNDATION



**VISIT THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED EXHIBIT
AUGUST 28, 2023 - APRIL 28, 2024
IN THE ANSARY GALLERY OF AMERICAN HISTORY**

VISIT BUSH41.ORG



CONTENTS

FEATURES

16

TRANSFERS & OPT-OUTS

College landscape has changed.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

18

TEXAS BOWL

Recap of the game and our favorite shots.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

20

FOOTBALL SIGNING CLASS

Elko Inks Signing Class and No. 2 Portal Class.

BY ROB HAVENS '88

29

TEXAS A&M SPORT CLUBS

AI spotlights Polo and Baseball Clubs

BY ROB HAVENS '88

IN EVERY ISSUE

Publisher's Note	04
Snapshots	06
Scoreboard	12
The 12th Man	30

ON THE COVER: Boots Radford elevates over a Kentucky defender in A&M's upset win over the Wildcats. Photo by Rob Havens '88



Aggie BASEBALL

AT GLOBE LIFE FIELD
ARLINGTON, TX

MARCH 1
6:00 PM VS ARIZONA STATE



MARCH 2
2:00 PM VS USC

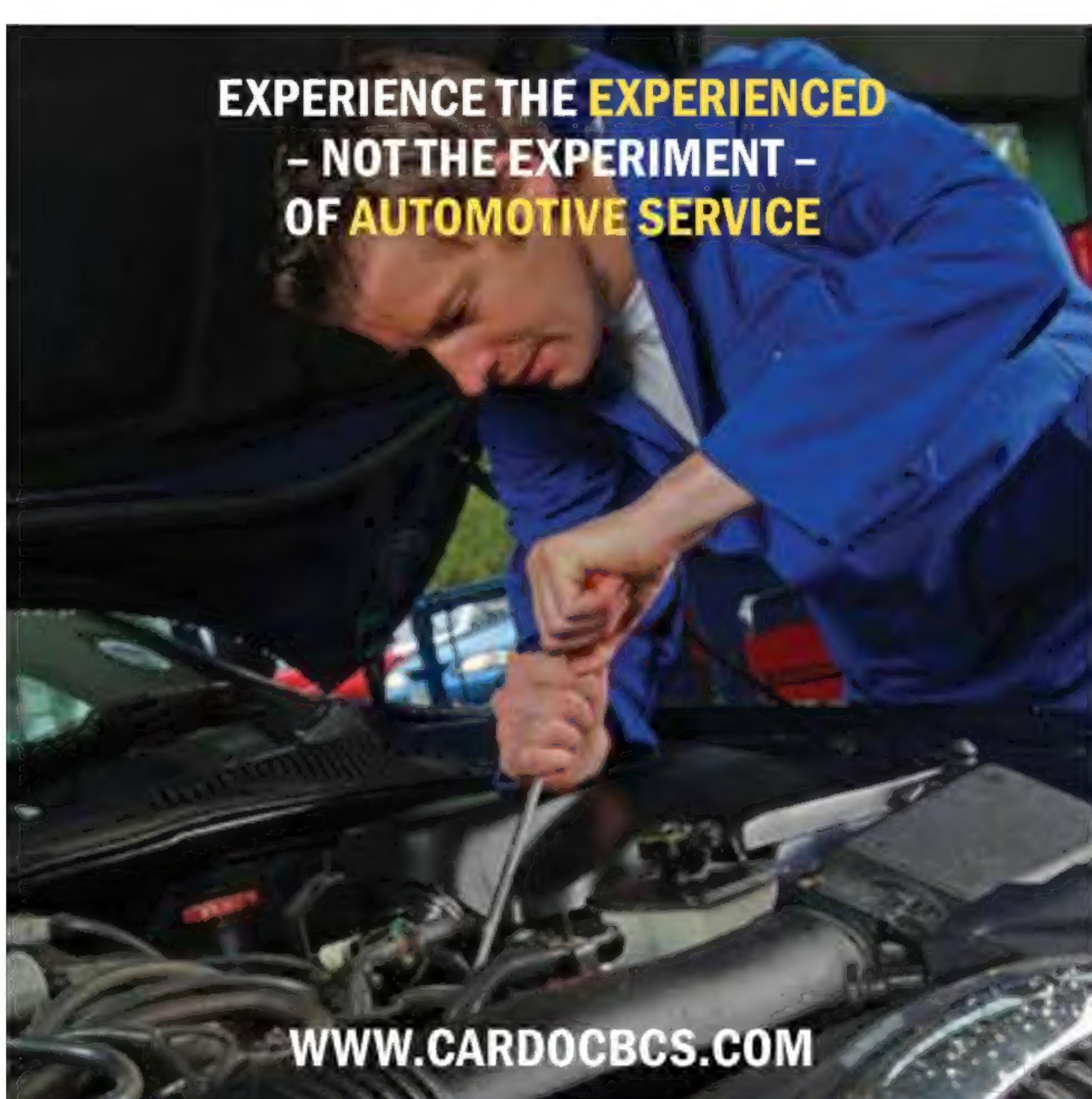


MARCH 3
11:00 AM VS ARIZONA STATE



TICKETS ON SALE AT GLOBELEFTFIELD.COM

EXPERIENCE THE **EXPERIENCED**
- NOT THE **EXPERIMENT** -
OF **AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE**



WWW.CARDOCBCS.COM

Open M-F 8-6 Sat 8-4 • Ask about our 2 year/24,000 mile labor warranty

CarDoc

979-693-8575

204-A Harvey Rd. • College Station

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED



Howdy Ags!

When I came out of the tunnel for the Texas Bowl I already knew that our numbers would be down with transfers and opt-outs. But as I watched us warm up, I was still pretty shocked by the number of unfamiliar faces going through first and second-team drills. In bowl games, it's always customary for there to be walk-ons wearing jerseys and warm-up pants to stand on the sideline, but in this game, every Aggie available was suited up in full gear.

When Jaylen Henderson walked past me after our first offensive play from scrimmage with the doctors holding his arm in an air cast, I knew we were in trouble. Though our guys gave it their all and fought to the end and I was super proud of them.

In the short time after Mike Elko arrived, he went to work. He had to build relationships with verbal commits, existing players, and potential recruits and at the same time research and build a new staff. Before the bowl game, Elko began a new tradition at A&M, tweeting out a Johnny Manziel GIF with a Gig'em and lock every time he got a new commitment. This became very popular for Aggies as they saw our new coach building a new foundation. There were six of these tweets before signing day. Then the Aggies signed 14 players on Early Signing Day.

After seeing our numbers on the field, I was still a bit concerned about what we would do next fall after all of the transfers and potential opt-outs. But Mike Elko showed that blue-collar hard-working style that we expected and the tweets kept coming. Seventeen more times we got to see the new GIF pop up, showing one after another after another commit, until Elko had moved to the number two transfer portal class in the nation.

I can't wait for the spring when Elko installs his defense and Coach Klein installs his offense, they will start developing these guys into SEC-caliber players. The lunchbox, "hold everyone accountable" philosophy is exactly what we need.

The Maroon & White game is scheduled for April 20, 2024, when we get a first look at the new Aggie football team. I can't wait!

Gig'em!

Rob '88



FOR REAL-TIME UPDATES ON ALL THINGS AGGIE SPORTS,
BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER!



@AGGIELANDILLUSTRATED



@AGGIEMAG

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Rob Havens '88
rob@aggiemag.com | 979.229.8046

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Pyatt '14

COPY EDITORS

Chelsea O'Neal Sweat '17
Gavin Greenville '24

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Sarah Pyatt '14

Aggieland Illustrated is an independently owned, Aggie owned and operated publication and in no way reflects the views or opinions of Texas A&M University.

Aggieland Illustrated (ISSN 1932-9105) is published six times a year in the United States by Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publication are welcome but will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Address all subscription inquiries and change of address requests to Aggieland Illustrated, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841. Allow up to eight weeks for response.

©2006-2013 AGGIELAND ILLUSTRATED
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Volume 18, Number 4

979-229-8046
www.aggiemag.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$18
OR 2 YEARS FOR \$32

FOUR EASY WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE:

BY PHONE: Call us at 979-229-8046

BY MAIL: Send your name, address and payment (check or credit card) to: Aggieland Illustrated Magazine, PO Box 6841, Bryan, TX 77805-6841

ONLINE: Visit www.aggiemag.com

QR CODE: Scan this QR Code for quick and easy access to our subscription page



CALL BINFORD FOR ALL YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS!



AGGIE OWNED AND OPERATED
FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE CLASS OF '70, '95 & 2020

BUGGIN' BUGS SINCE 1947
binfordinsectcontrol.com
979-822-5524



YOUR KEY TO THE BRAZOS VALLEY



PROUD AGGIE MOM

KYATESREALTOR@GMAIL.COM | 979.446.4739
KELLYYATES.EXPREALTY.COM | RESIDENTIAL / INVESTMENT

Planning a trip to
Aggieland and don't
know where to start?



DESTINATION
AGGIELAND



**Visit Destination
Aggieland in the
Texas A&M app for
maps, parking, traffic,
shuttles & more!**



Visit the app



NBA LEGEND

NBA legend Scottie Pippen welcomes the players and coaches leaving the floor after the big upset win over Kentucky with a huge smile. The six-time world champion who was named one of the "50 Greatest Players in NBA History" attended the game with his son Justin, who has been offered a basketball scholarship by Texas A&M. The Pippens had plenty to smile about as the men beat the #6 Wildcats 97-92 in overtime. Photo by Rob Havens '88





Women's basketball head coach Joni Taylor celebrates the biggest win of her coaching career in Aggieland with her players as they Saw 'Em Off after the game. The Aggies dominated the Tennessee Volunteers, winning 71-56. The Vols program has made 18 Final Four appearances and won eight national championships. The current team carried a six-game winning streak coming into Reed Arena. Photo by Rob Havens '88

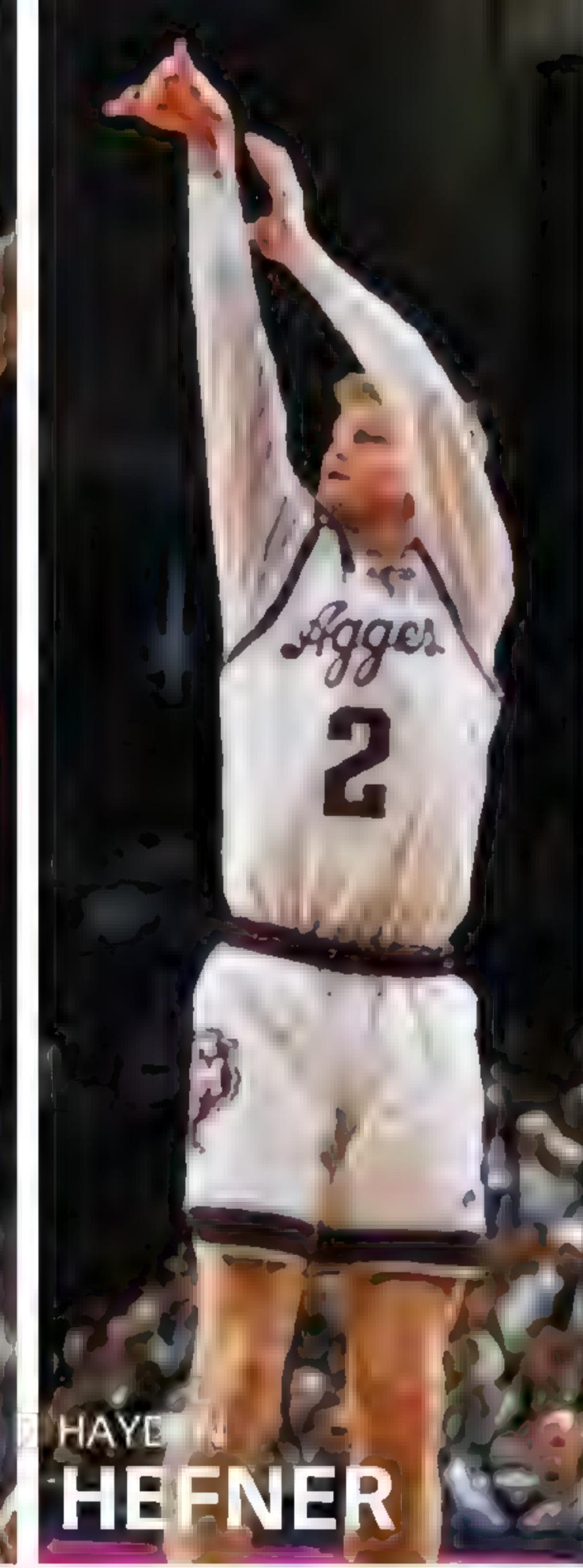
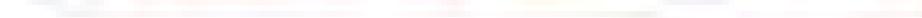
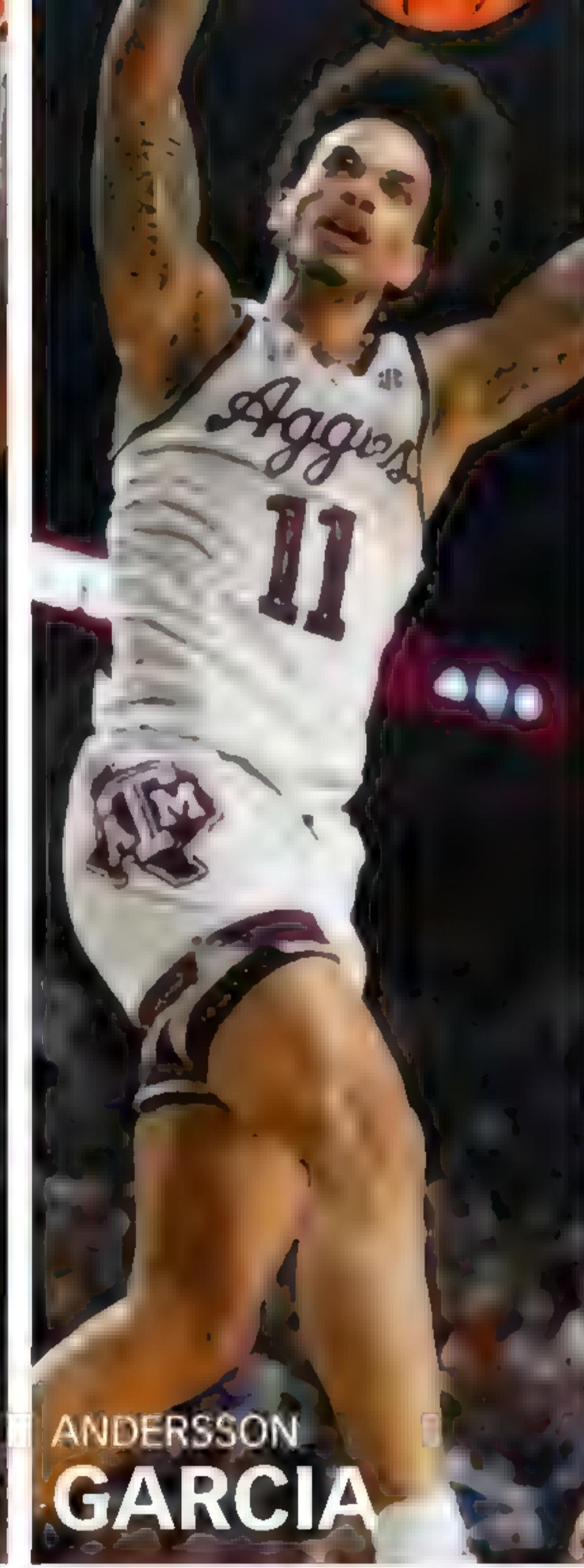
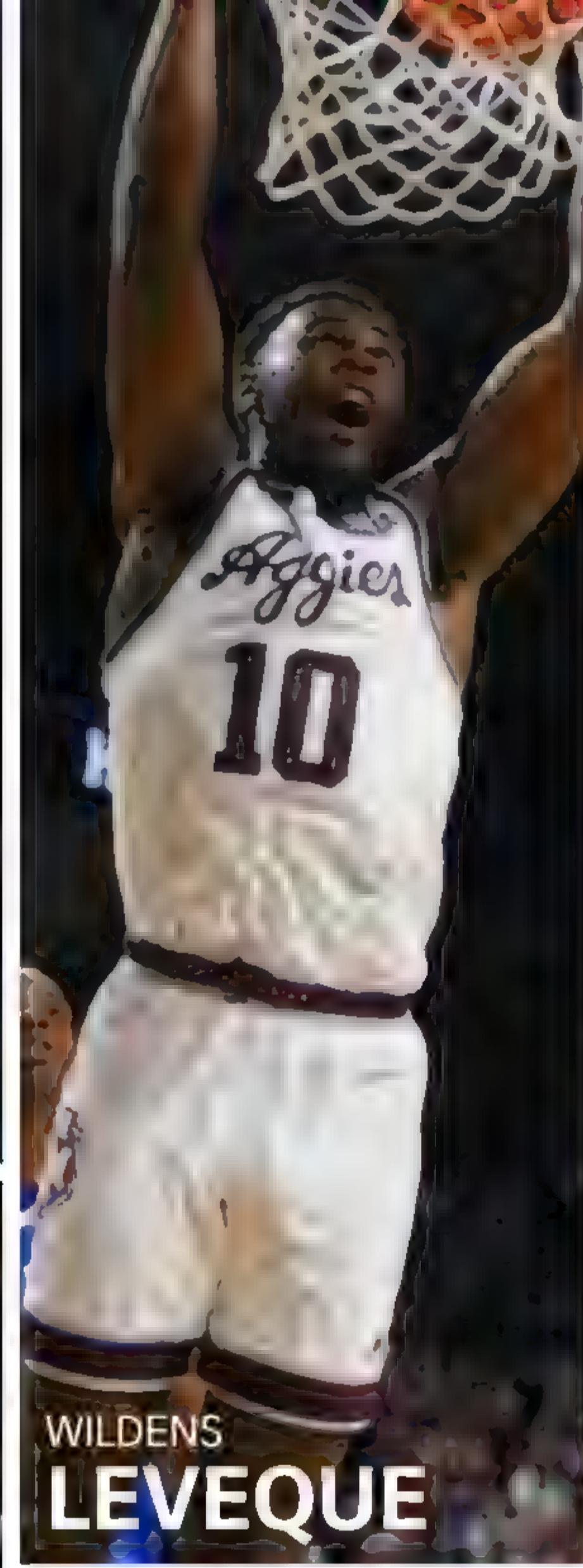


SNAPSHOT



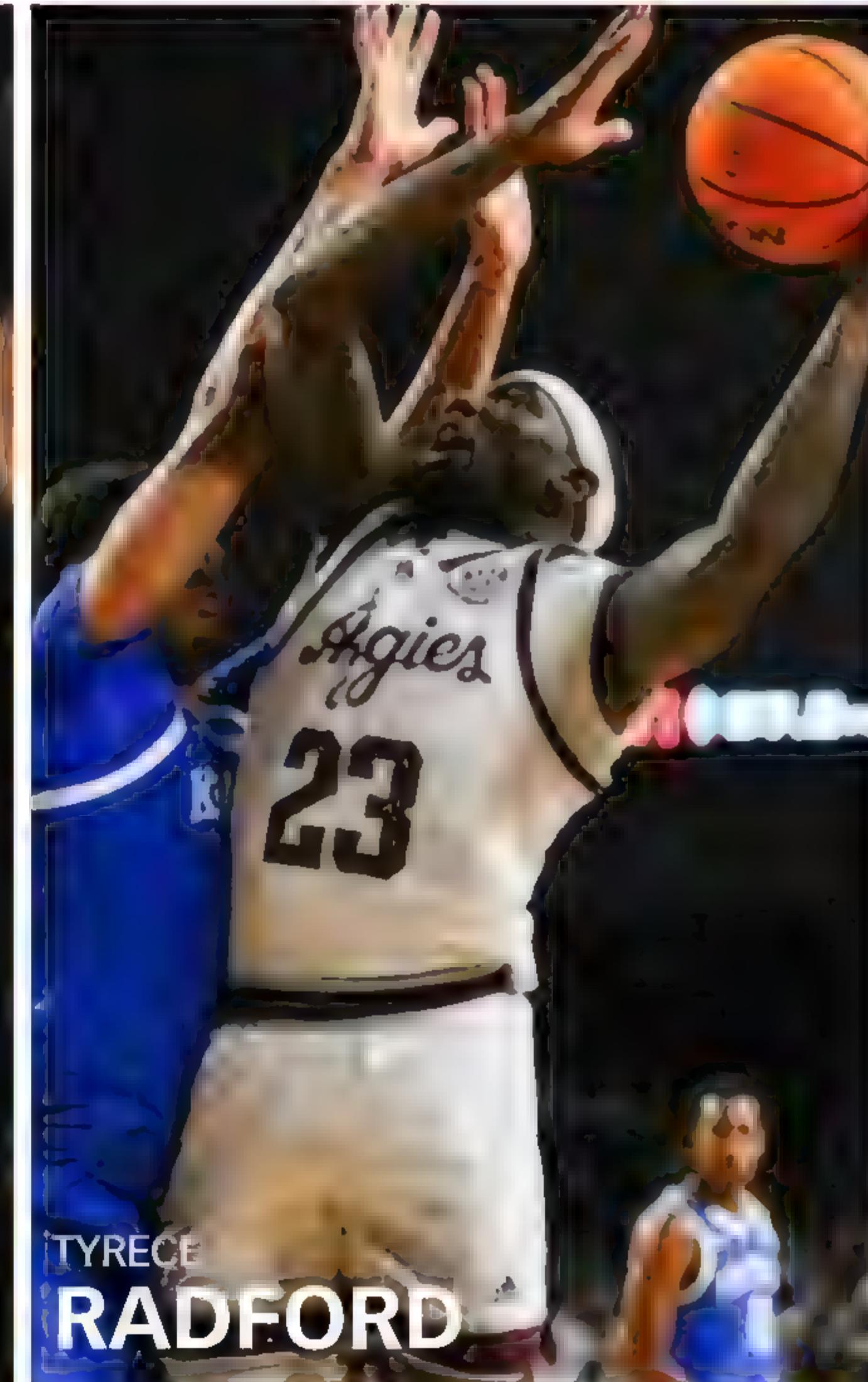
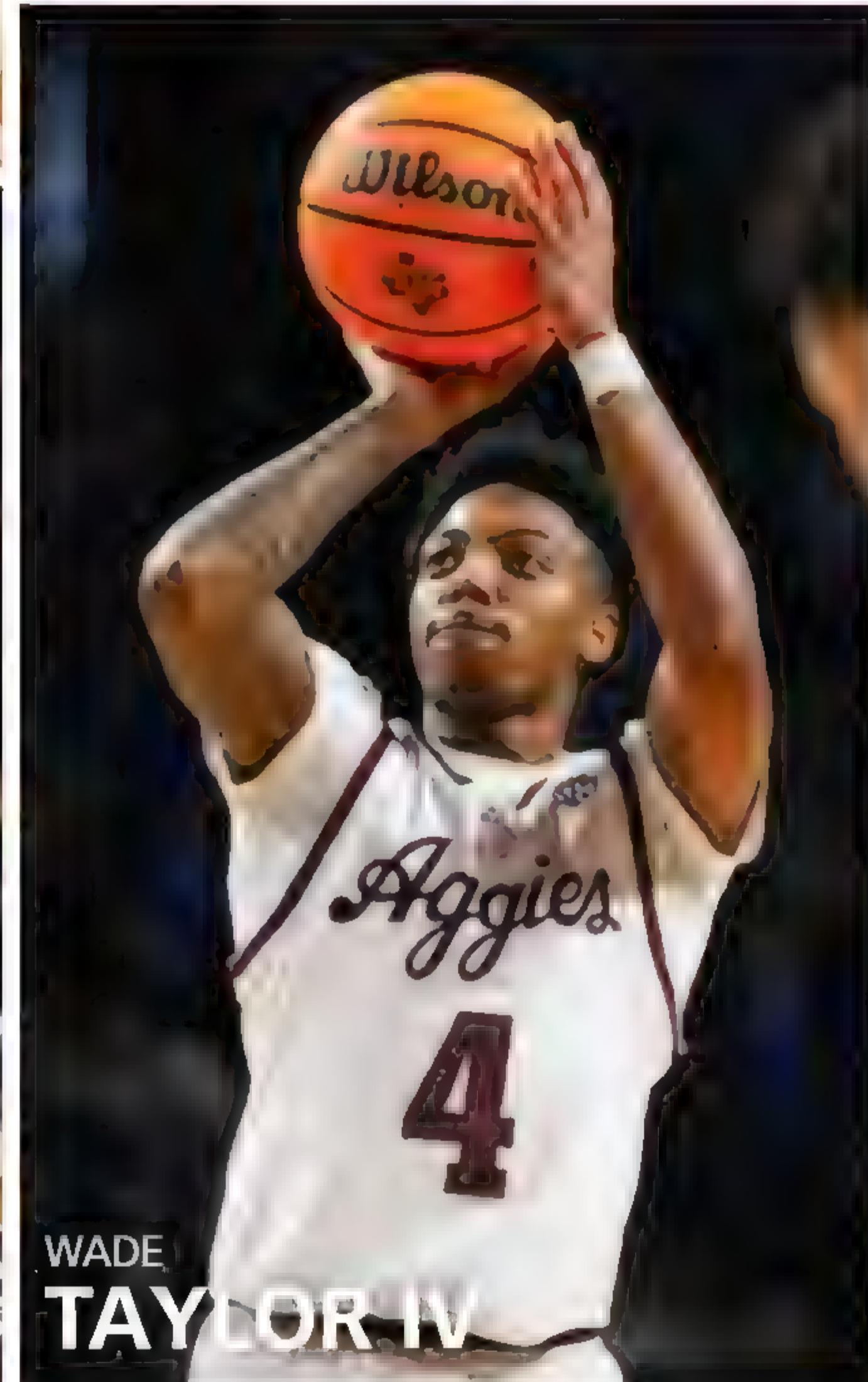
TOUCHDOWN

True freshman and fourth-string quarterback Marcel Reed high steps into the end zone after a 20-yard scurry around the end to claim the first rushing touchdown of his Aggie career. Thrust into service after starting quarterback Jaylen Henderson was injured on the first play of the Texas Bowl, Reed was ready to show what he could do. The talented kid out of Nashville's Montgomery Bell Academy completed 61% of his passes for 361 yards. Although we ran out of time, Reed showed he is ready to compete for playing time next season. Photo by Rob Havens '88

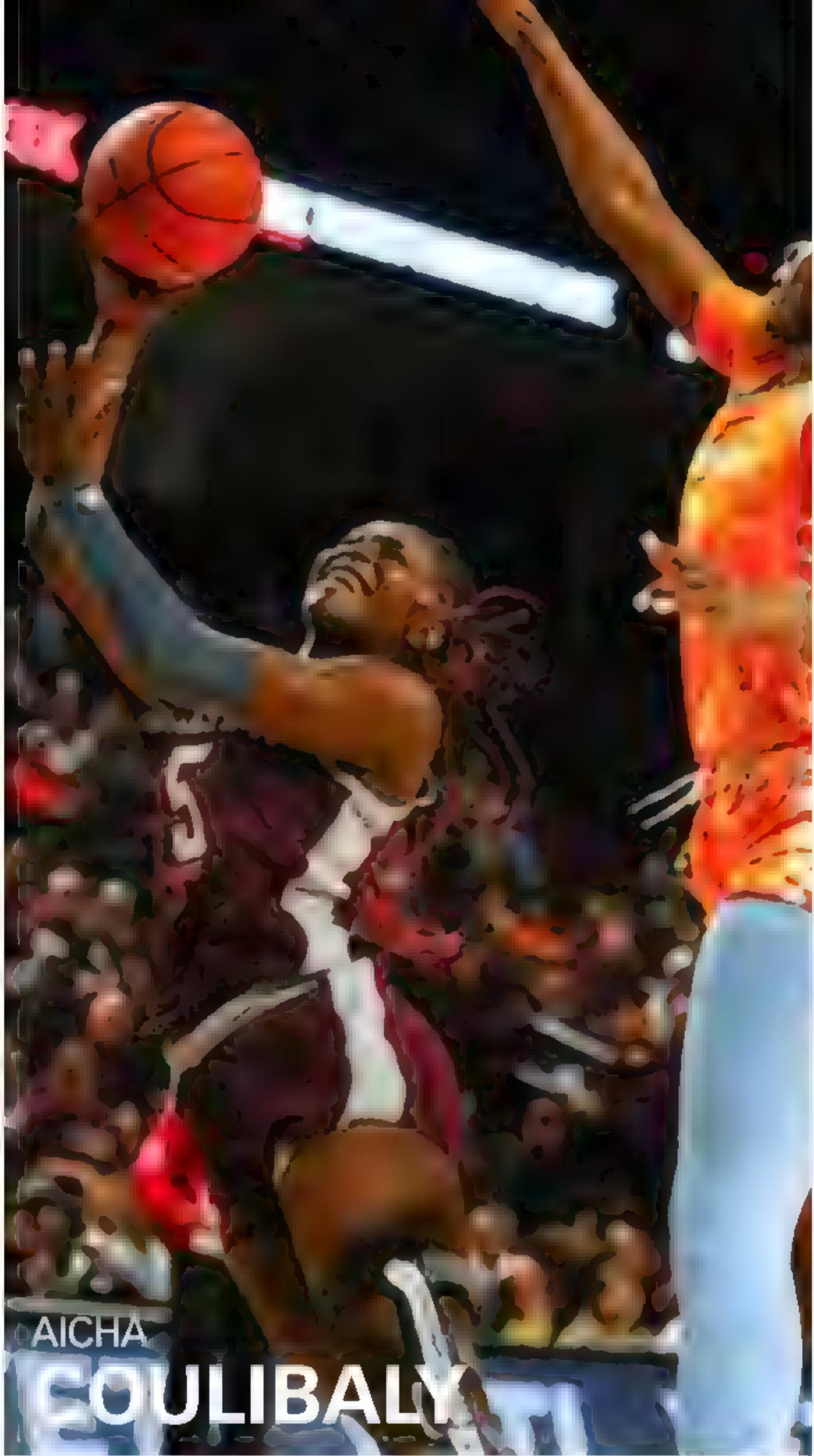


MEN'S BASKETBALL

Currently the Aggies are 3-3 in conference play with big wins over No. 6 Kentucky at Reed Arena, and a gutty win on the road against LSU. Buzz and the boys battled through one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the country and are now in the middle of the pack in the SEC standings. The overtime win over #6 Kentucky was the first for Buzz Williams, and the Aggies played one of their best games of the year against the talented Blue Blood program. After a disappointing loss to LSU at home, the Aggies got some revenge in a big win at Baton Rouge.



SCOREBOARD



AICHA
COULIBALY



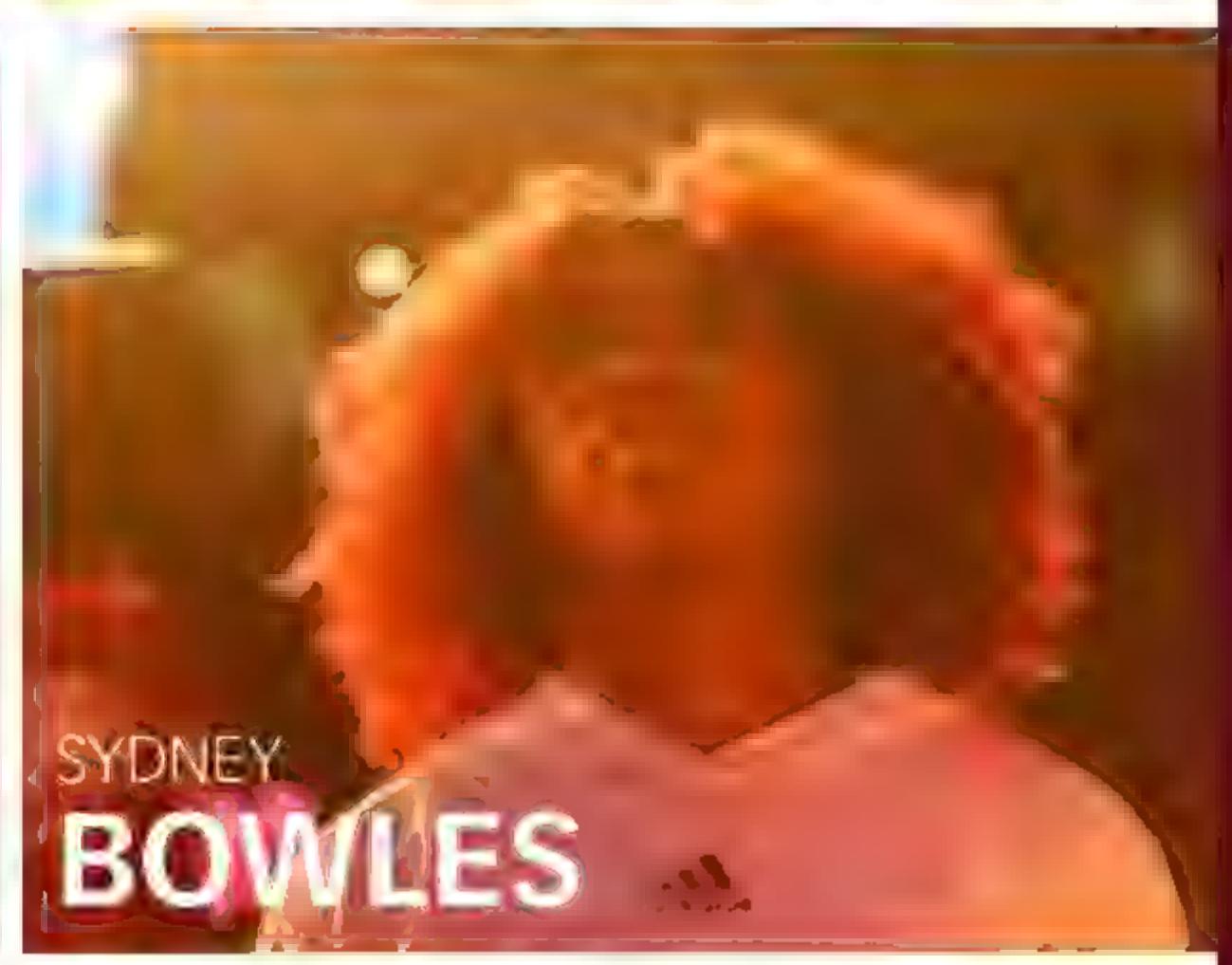
JANIAH
BARKER



LAUREN
WARE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Aggies went 12-1 during the non-conference portion of their schedule and are currently 3-3 in the SEC. They have big wins over Tennessee at Reed and their first conference road victory in the Joni Taylor era at Missouri. The Aggies dominated the Volunteers 71-56, letting everyone know that this team is much improved over last year's squad. After a tough loss to #1 South Carolina, the ladies bounced back on the road for a tough 69-67 victory over the Missouri Tigers.



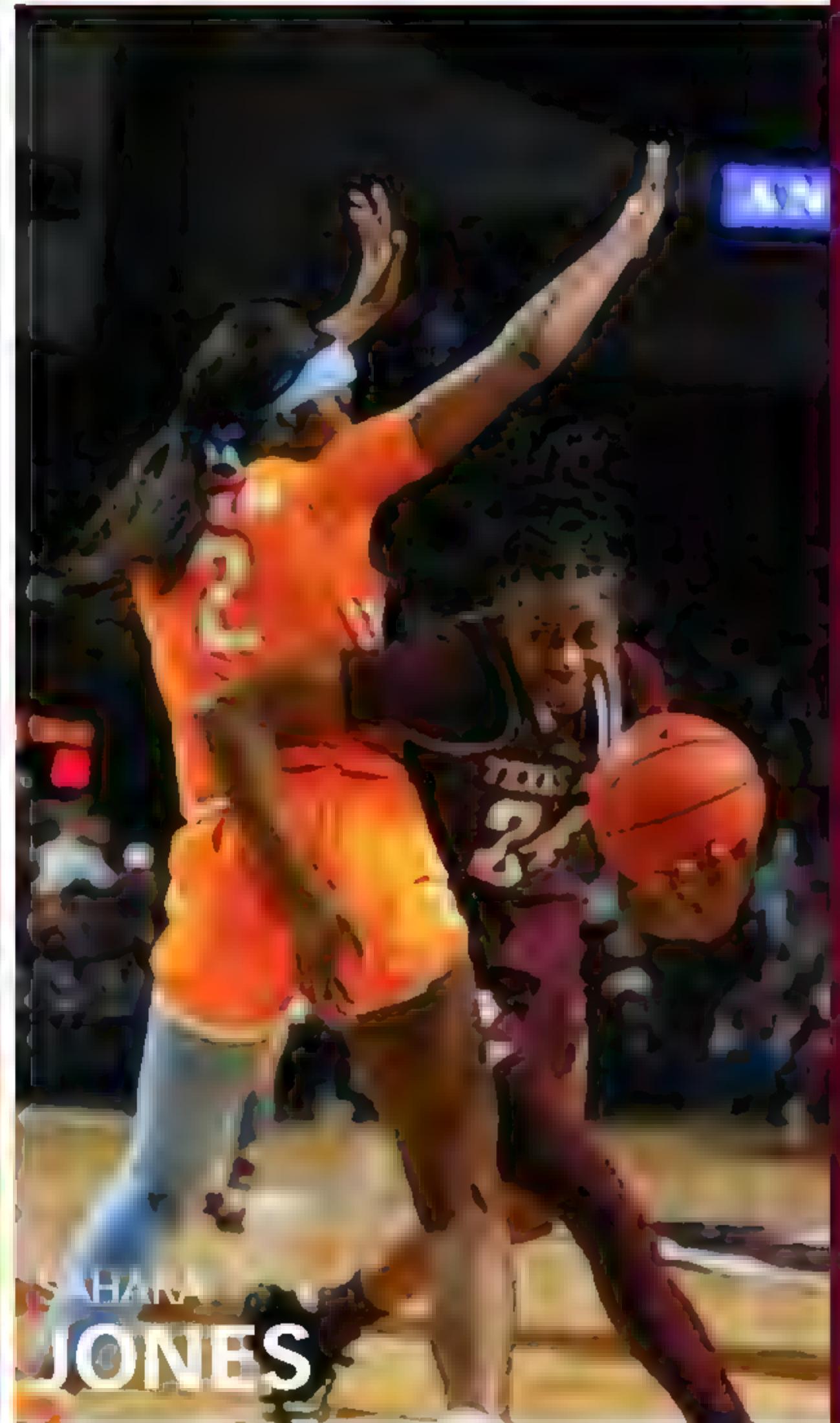
SYDNEY
BOWLES



COACH JONI
TAYLOR



RAYNE
GREEN



HALEY
JONES

LET YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU

Maximize your earning potential with

Reward Checking.

Open an interest-earning
personal checking account
at city.bank/reward.



City Bank

800.OUR.BANK
city.bank

©2023 City Bank. Member FDIC

**DEPENDABLE CARS.
DEPENDABLE DEALER.**

Serving Aggieland for over 30 years



HONDA

ALLEN HONDA



THE CORNER OF SOUTHWEST PKWY AND HIGHWAY 6
TOLL FREE (866) 880-2424 • WWW.ALLENHONDA.COM

Chicken EXPRESS

Aggie Owned & Operated

Two Convenient Locations in College Station:

710 Earl Rudder Fwy. S. at University
979-846-7781

12875 Wellborn/FM 2154
979-764-7781

New Location in Bryan:
401 S. Texas Ave at 29th Street
979-823-5222

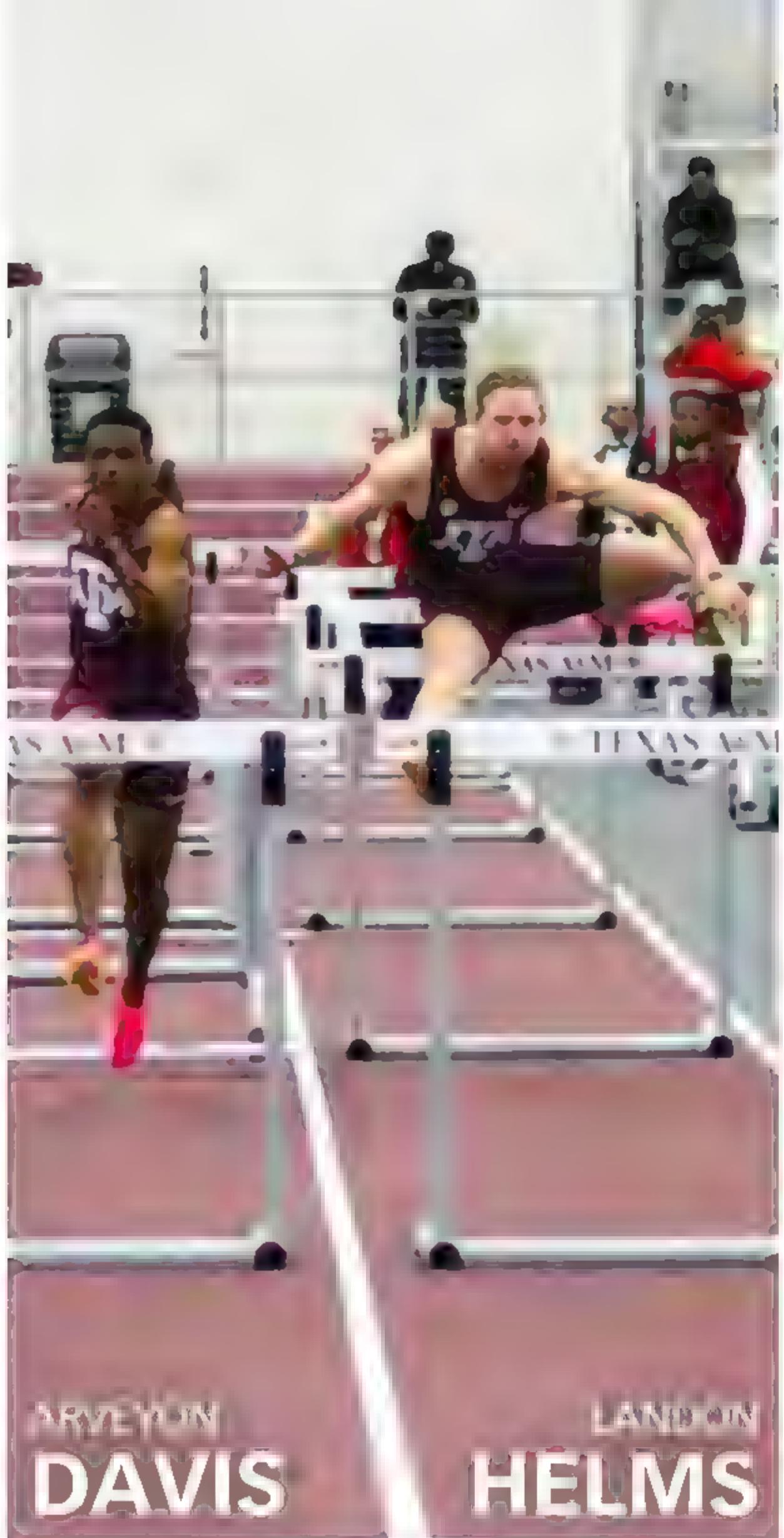
JACK WINSLOW BODY SHOP

SERVING AGGIELAND FOR OVER 62 YEARS!

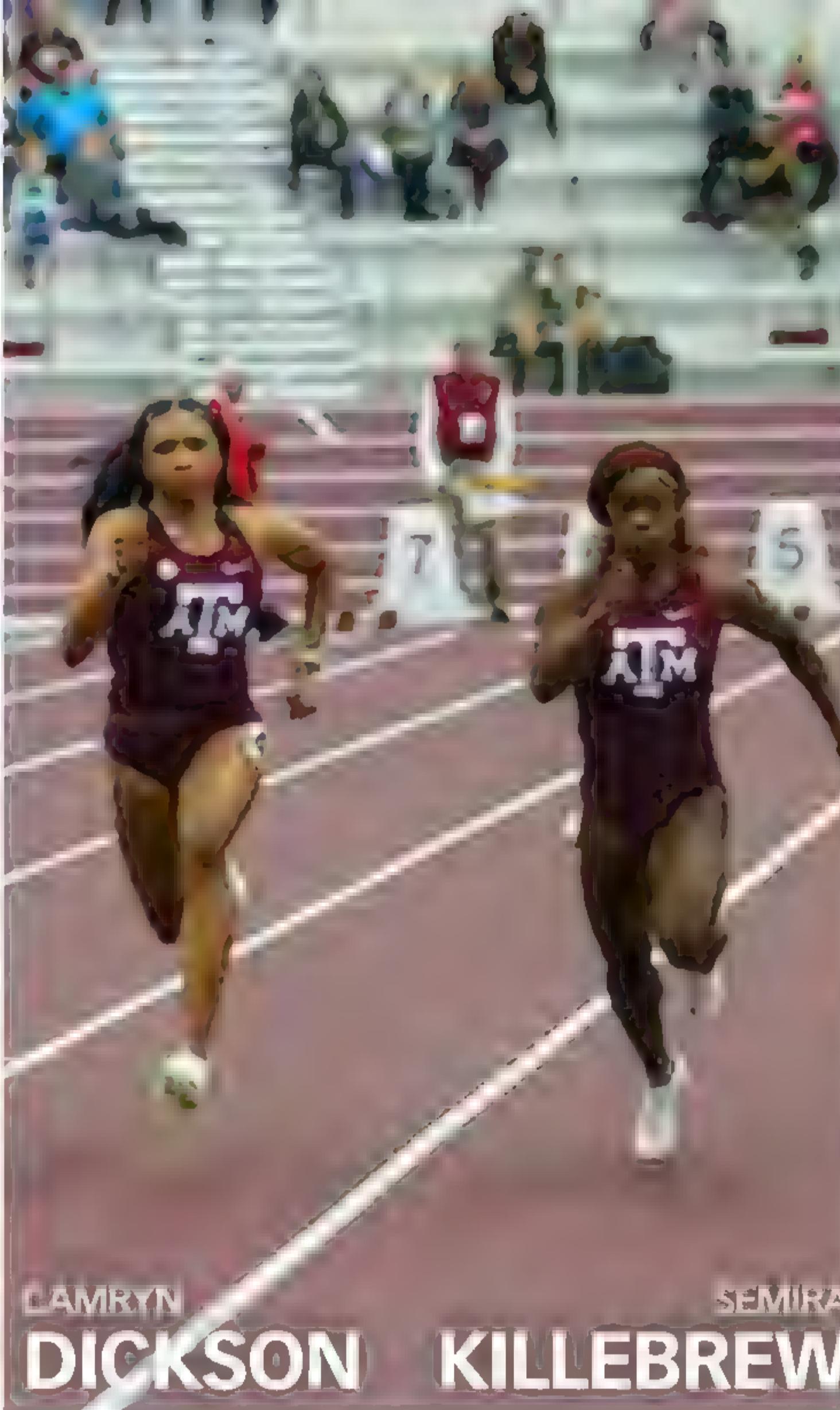
- FREE ESTIMATES -
- INSURANCE CLAIMS WELCOME -
- OVER 100,000 SQ FT -



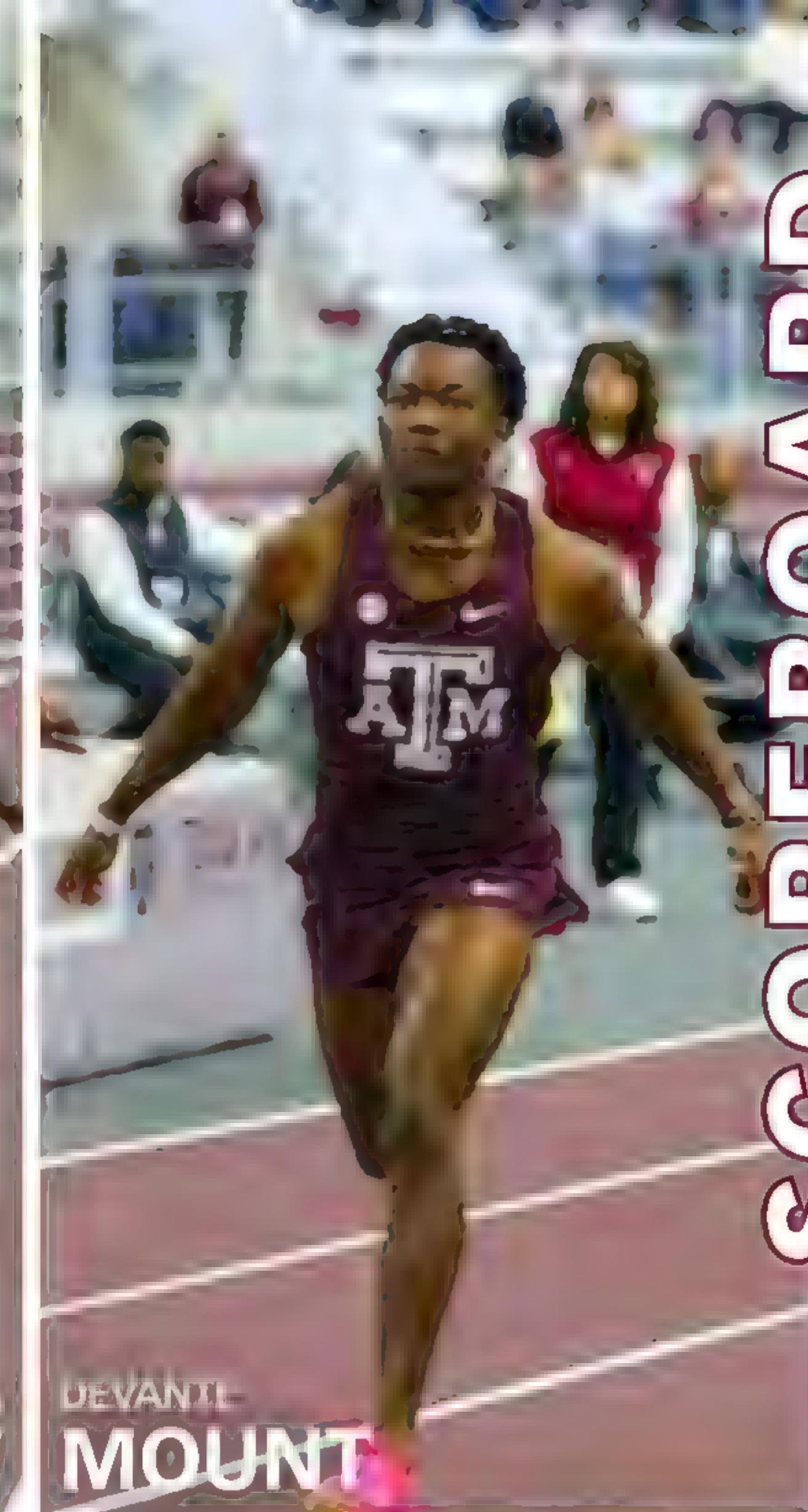
SCOREBOARD



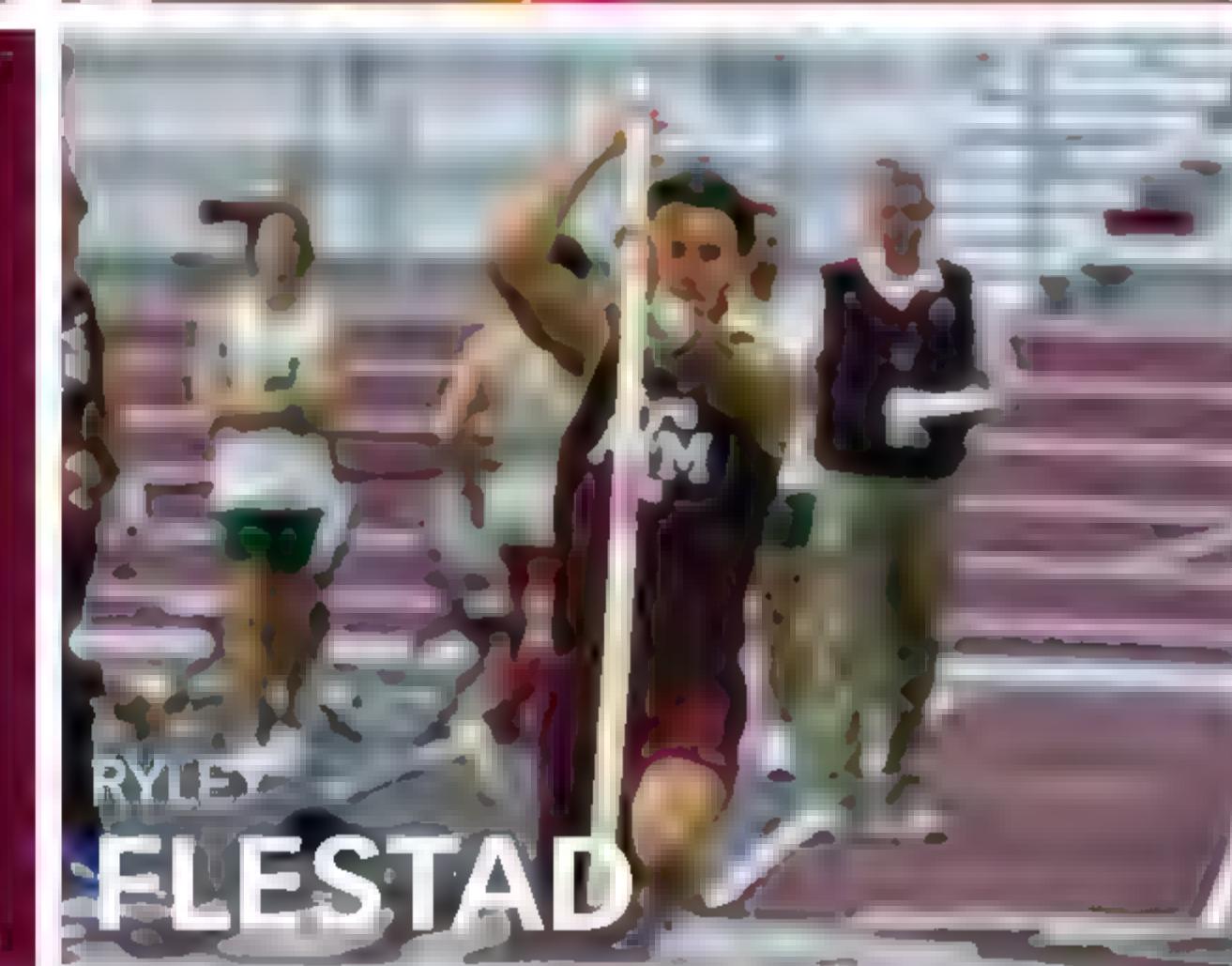
ARYEYON
DAVIS



LANDON
HELMS



CAMRYN
DICKSON SEMIRA
KILLEBREW



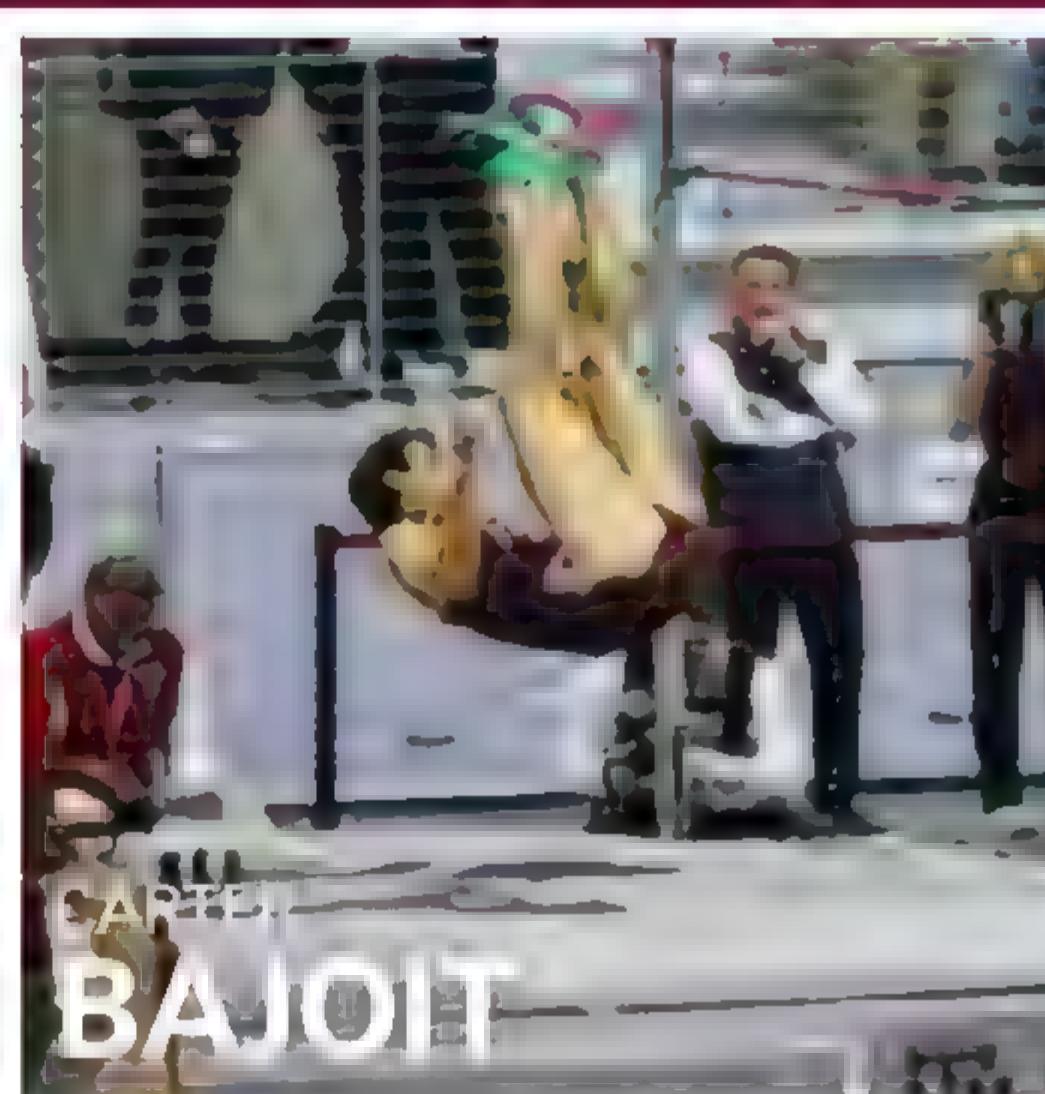
DEVANTE
MOUNT

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

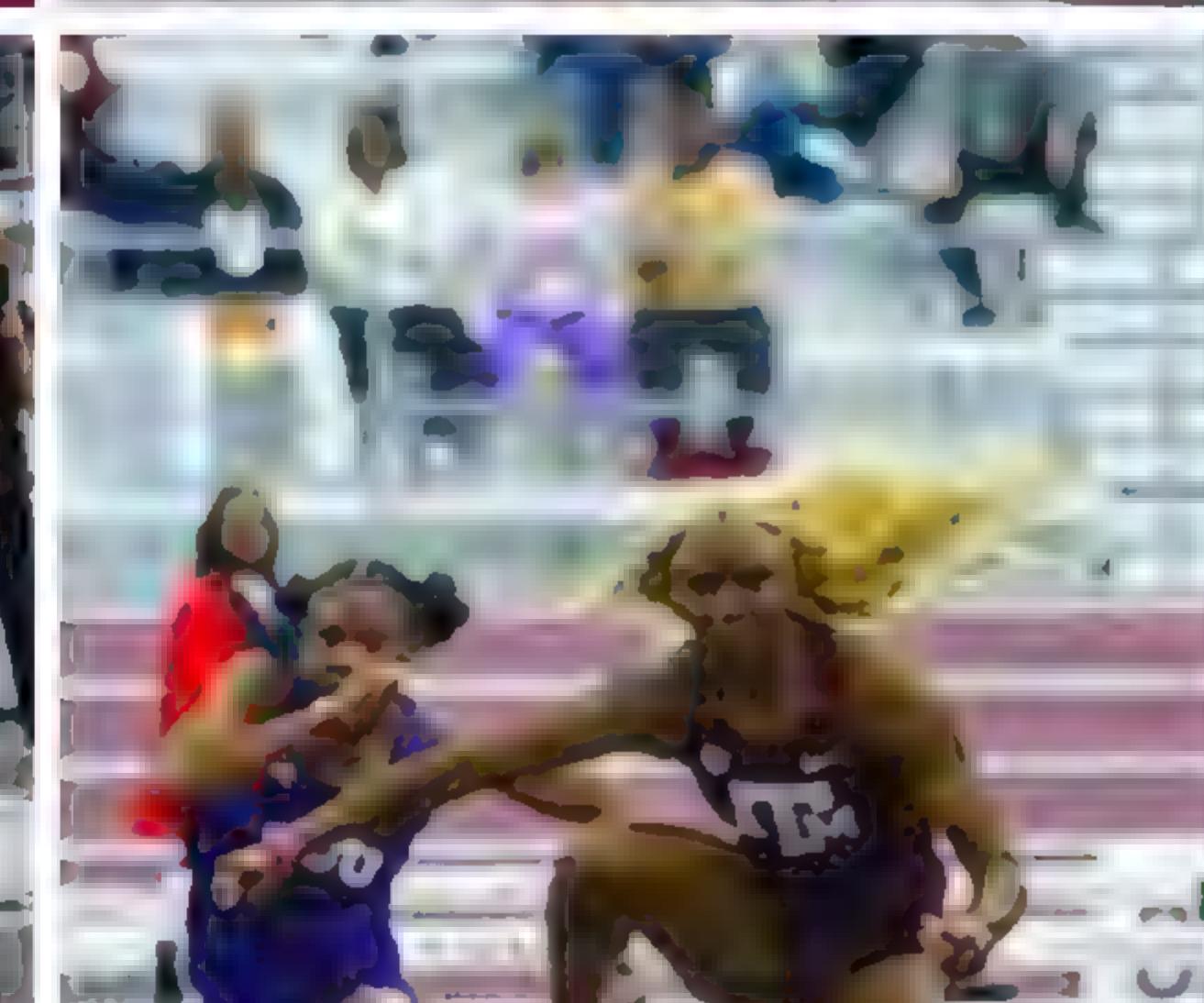
Texas A&M opened the brand new R.A. 'Murray' Fasken '38 Indoor Track & Field facility on January 13th. The 130,000-square-foot stadium was designed and built with the capability of hosting conference, national and international competitions. The indoor facility can seat up to 4,000—all of which are elevated above ground level surrounding the entire track. The Aggies are already set to host the 2025 SEC Indoor Track & Field Championships. On the opening weekend, the Aggies won six events and set seven Aggie All-Time Top-12 performer marks.



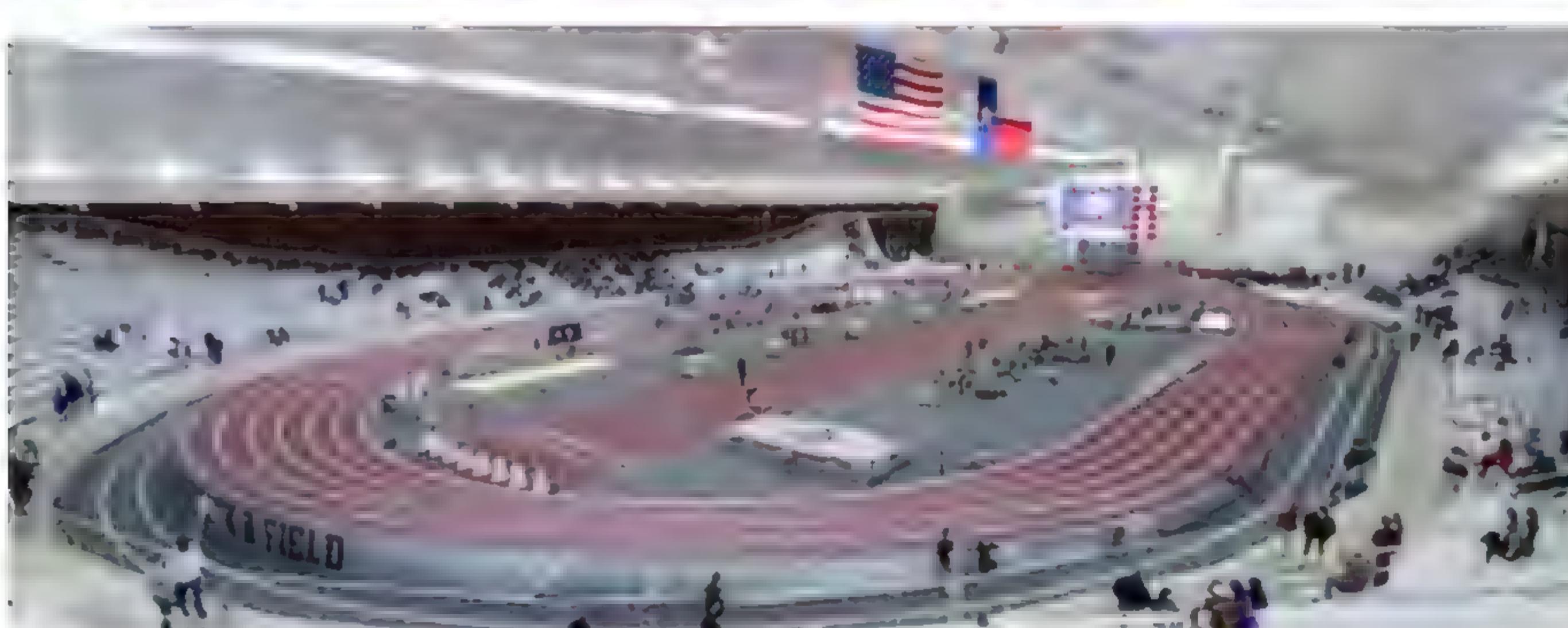
SABR
ABADIE

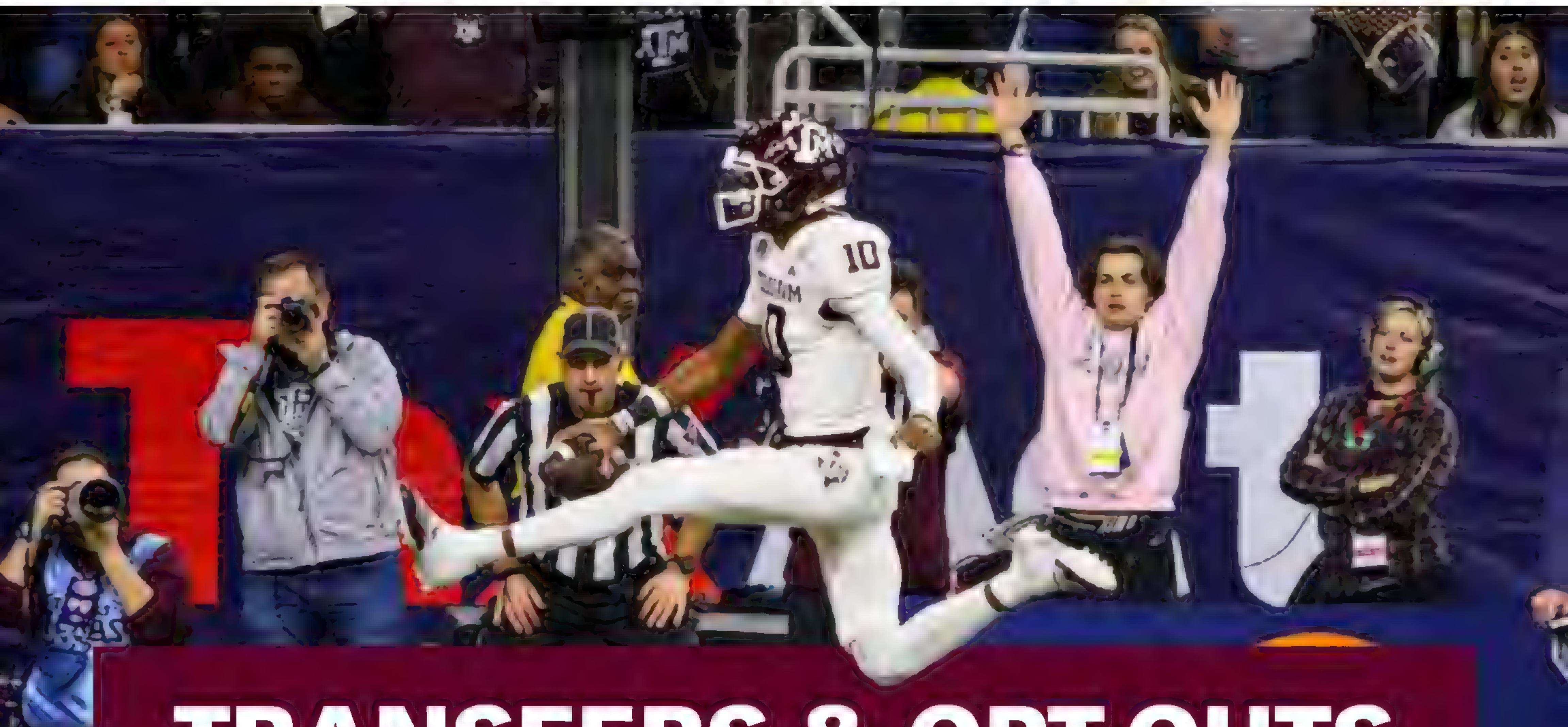


CARLI
BAJOT



COVINGTON





TRANSFERS & OPT-OUTS

WON'T EXTINGUISH THE AGGIE SPIRIT TO FIGHT TO THE END

BY ROB HAVENS '88

College Football is not the same as it was five years ago. The transfer portal and NIL have made it into a professional sport where student-athletes have the power to move from school to school in search of the most lucrative financial deal they can get. Recruiting sites even give a dollar value on what it will take to sign a football player to your team. The new system has little to no rules and with no clear path in the future, the game as we knew it will exist no longer.

Beginning next season the College Football Playoff will expand to twelve teams. It will be interesting to see how bowl games will be affected by the expansion. Over the last few years the advent of the "Opt Out" has had a huge impact on the games. A few years ago, there were only a few of the games' best that would skip the bowl game to prevent themselves from getting an injury that might

affect their draft stock. Now the "Opt Out" happens everywhere and players who have no chance of a long NFL career are quitting on their teams and the bowl games have become glorified scrimmages.

The portal has made it even worse! Now players are opting out or entering the portal to test the waters and see how much money they can make. In many cases, players will make more money playing college ball than they will ever make playing in the NFL. High school players recruiting visits used to be about where would be the best place to get a great education and set them up for the rest of their lives. Now it's all about where they can make the most money. Existing players also see new kids making more than them after the blood, sweat, and tears they have already poured out and decide to see how much they can get on the open market.

The portal was created to give kids who were buried on a depth chart the opportunity to play somewhere else. But now even starters that are having great success are testing the waters to see how much money they can make. A great example of the proper use of the portal would be Haynes King. A talented kid who did his best and fought through injuries, but knew based on the players we already had that it was best to move on. He found a landing spot at Georgia Tech and has found great success.

Unfortunately, too many players have been short-sighted and let the desire to make a quick buck affect their outlook on what a degree and three or four years at one school can do for them. As a result, the portal is full of kids looking to land at a place that is offering the most money.

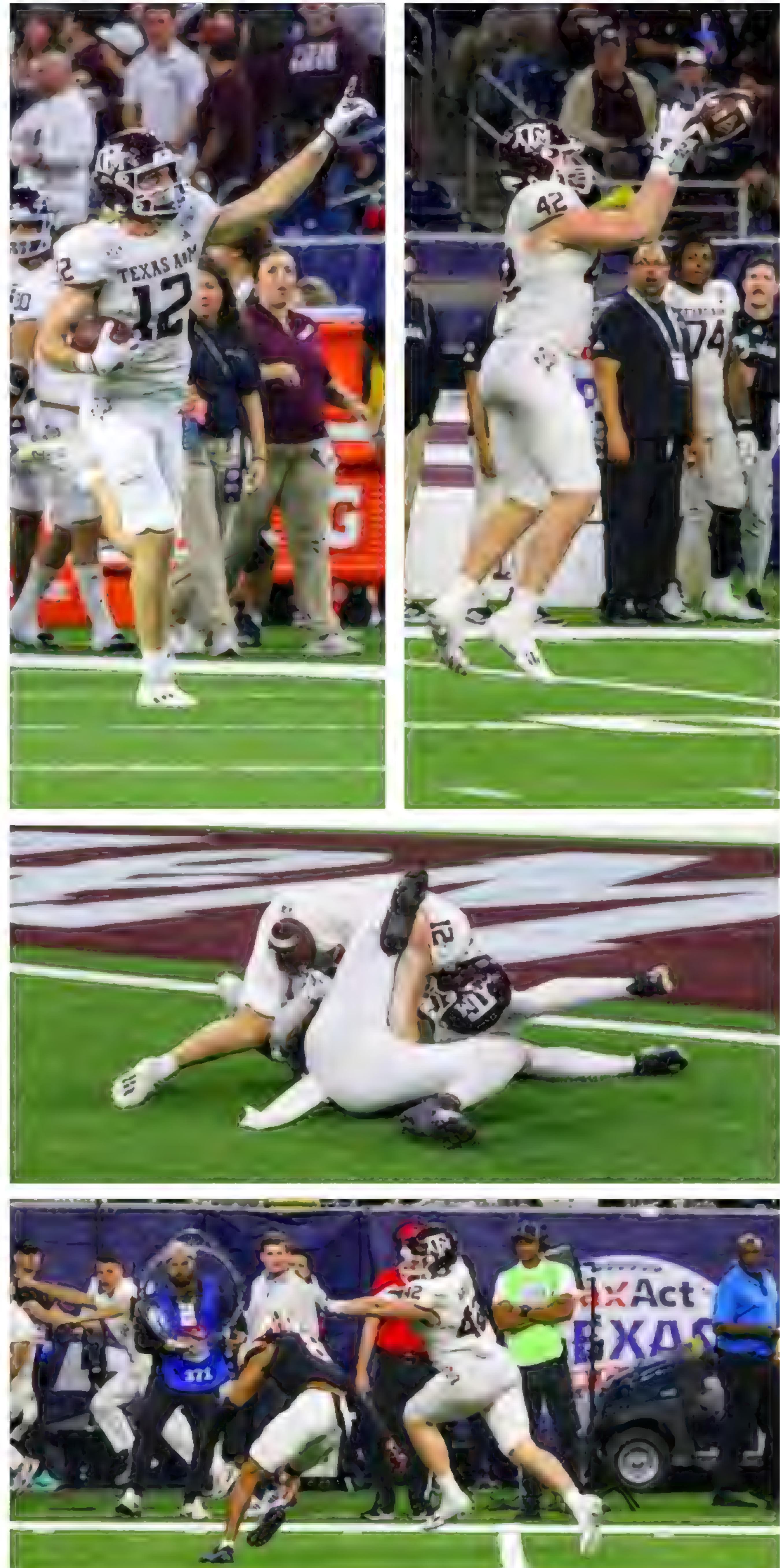
Coaches can't speak out on what they think because they fear the repercussions of alienating their players or potential new players by saying the system is "flawed." As a result, you have guys like Lane Kiffin who talked trash about our program buying all of its players and now he is leading the pack in buying the best players in the portal, including Walter Nolen.

As a result of the portal, NIL, and injuries, the Aggies had to play the Texas Bowl without 31 scholarship players. On the bright side, we got to see some young guys get some significant playing time. The Aggies had six new starters on defense. Holes in our secondary allowed our 12th Man Sam Mathews to start and show what he could do at safety. He answered the bell with a team-high 14 tackles and an interception.

Our third-string quarterback, Jaylen Henderson, who started the game after the early season injury to Conner Weigman and the transfer by second-string quarterback Max Johnson, was injured on the first play. Our fourth-string quarterback, Marcel Reed, came in and played his heart out allowing the Aggies a chance to win the game late.

One thing that the portal and NIL have shown is the greatness of those who stayed and gave it all like graduate Max Wright. "Texas A&M to me is the perfect representation of what it means to be people of honor and character," he explained " It's the best university in the world, and there is no other university like it. I will be an Aggie for the rest of my life."

As Mike Elko begins the rebuilding process, my advice is that he fills our team with hard-working men who have great character and hearts just like Max Wright. He showed what the Aggie Spirit is all about. Money will come and go, but being an Aggie is much more than collecting a big check. The Aggies fell short in their final game of 2023, but the heart and the fight we showed made us all very proud. ■





BY ROB HAVENS '88

The deck was stacked against the Aggies going into the Texas Bowl, nevertheless the Aggies fought to the end and came up just short falling 31-23. The game was the end of one era and the start of a new one under Coach Mike Elko.

After the firing of Jimbo Fisher, there were plenty of questions moving forward. Who would be the next coach? What players would transfer and who would play in the bowl?

On the bright side the Aggies got their guy and all of Aggieland could celebrate the hiring of Mike Elko. Yet there was still plenty of uncertainty as players jockeyed for position in an ever-changing landscape of college football. Walter Nolen, Evan Stewart, and Max Johnson were a few of the first players to pull the plug and look for another landing spot. Edgerin Cooper announced he was opting out and preparing for the NFL.

By the time the players took the field, the Aggies were down to less than 50 scholarship players. Interim Coach Elijah Robinson said they were not opting out of the bowl game and as long as they had eleven players they were going to play.

You had to have a roster card to look up the names of the players as they warmed up on the field and ran through first and second-team drills. Fortunately, the Aggies knew they would be without Max Johnson and that gave Jalen Henderson and Marcel Reed a month to

get reps with the receivers who did plan to play.

Unfortunately, on the first play from scrimmage for the Aggies, Henderson was tackled after releasing a pass and suffered an injury that would knock him out of the game. True Freshman Marcel Reed would come in and play his heart out and gave the Aggies a chance to win.

Reed completed 20 of 33 passes for 361 yards. He also showed off his running skills adding another 29 yards on the ground and a huge touchdown for the Aggies. Jahdae Walker had an outstanding game with eight catches for 137 yards. Playing in his final game for the Aggies, Max Wright had four catches for 62 yards. Moose Muhammad III had a spectacular one-handed grab during the contest and added two more catches during the game.

On a day that fans needed a program to keep up with who our players on the field were, there was no doubt who No. 12 was as he earned his first start in the defensive backfield in his Aggie career. Sam Mathews had the game of his life with a career-high 14 tackles and an interception. Tweeting after the game "All I needed was a shot!" He showed everyone how talented he was and how big his heart is.

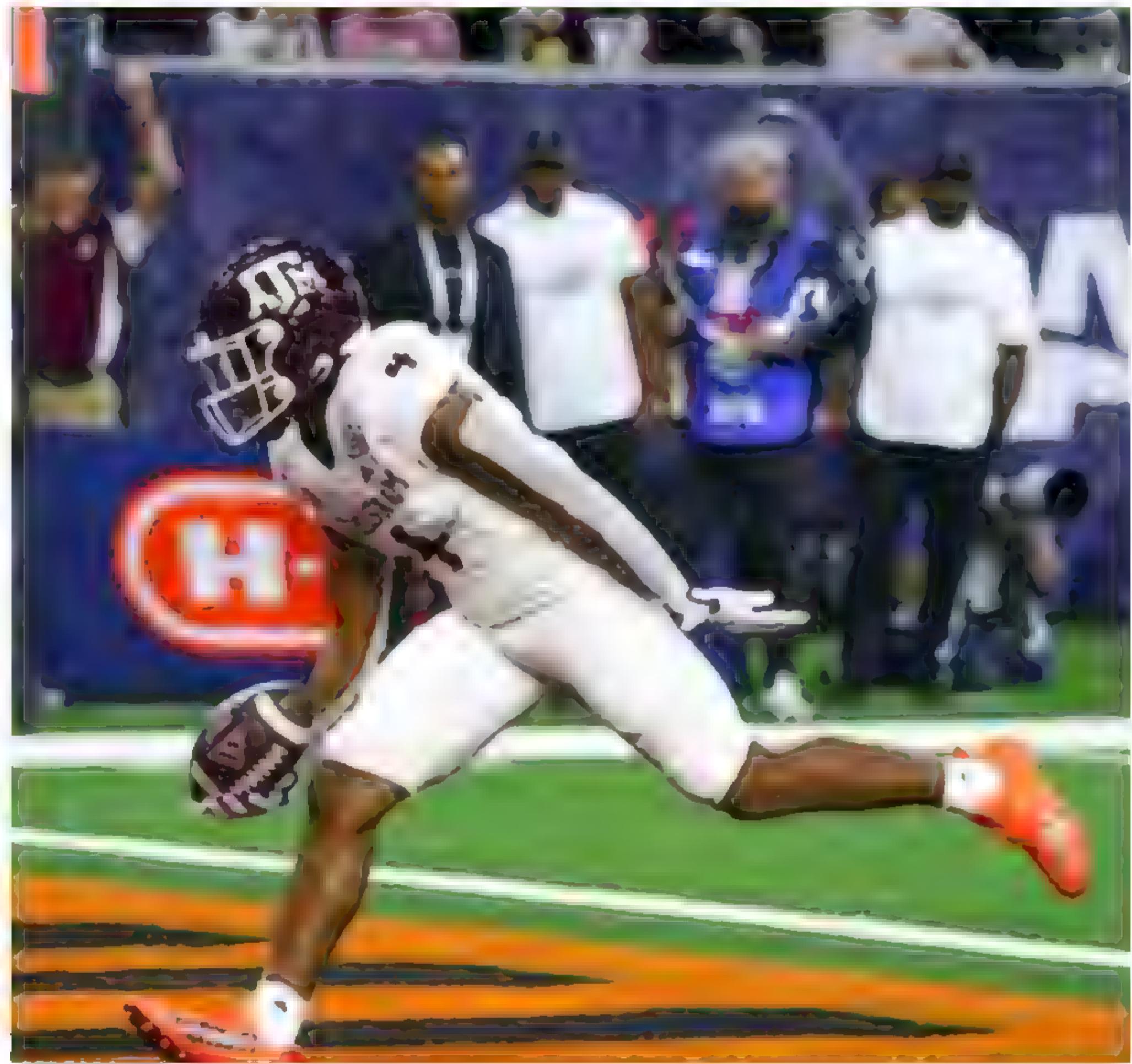
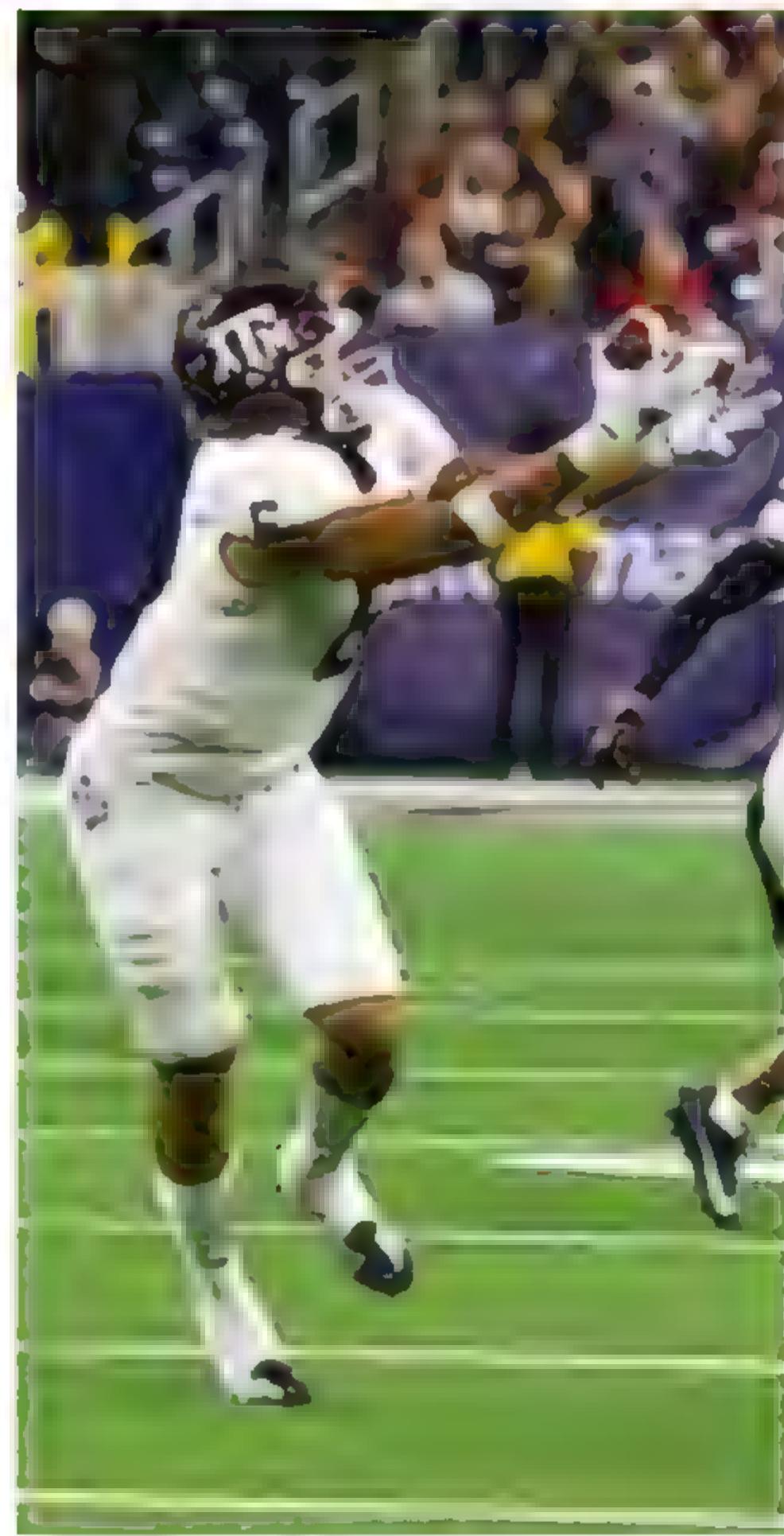
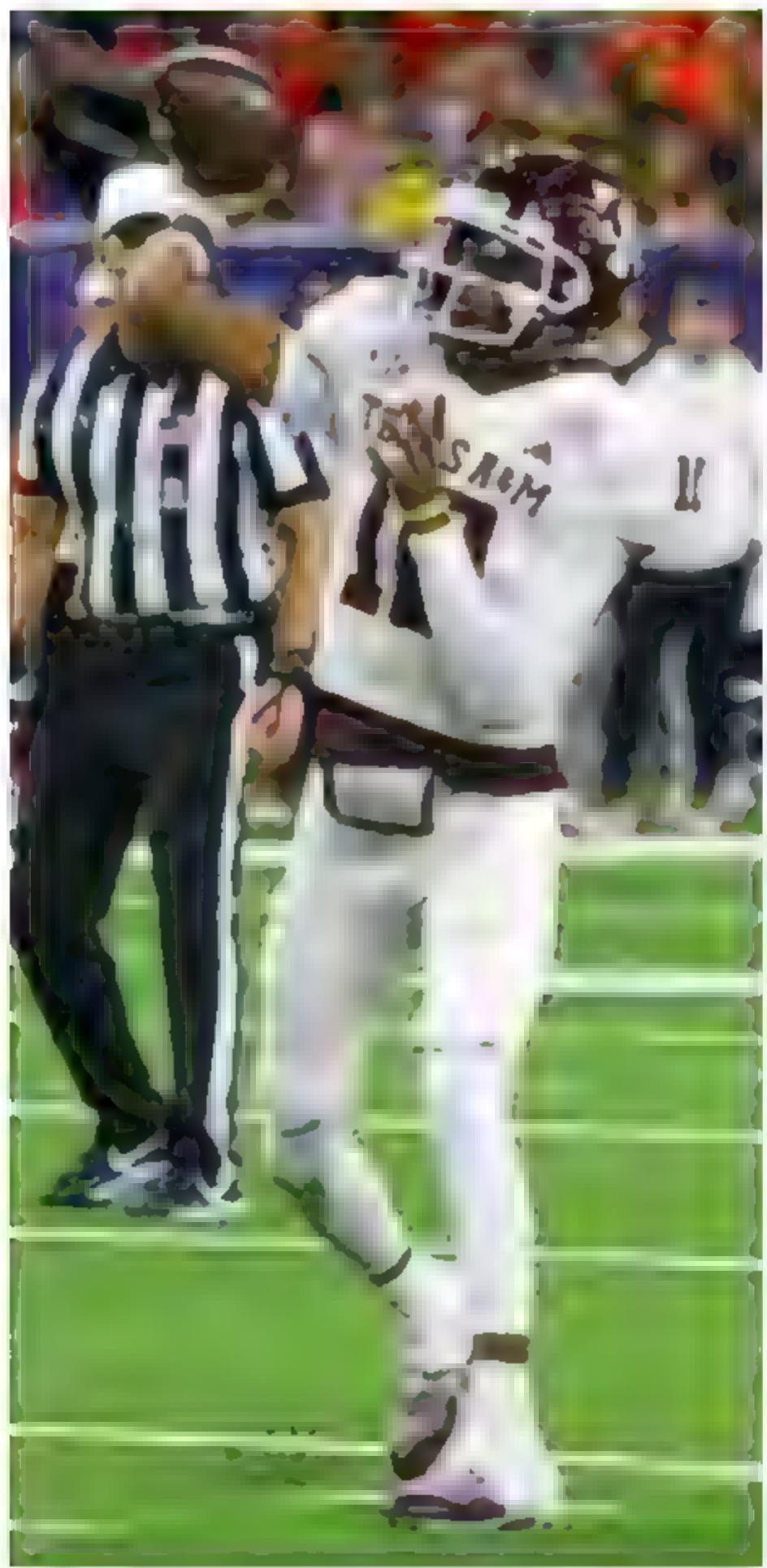
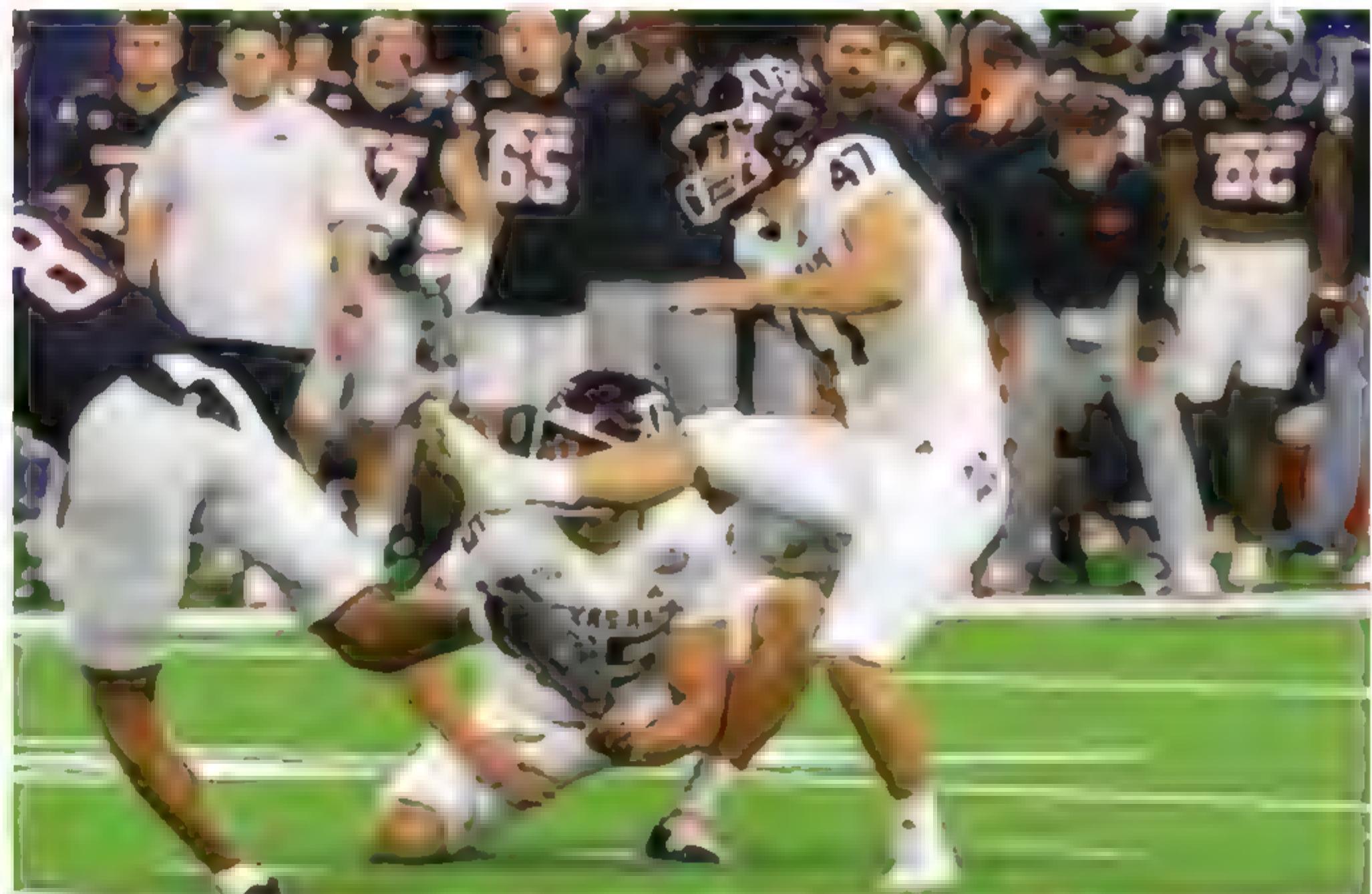
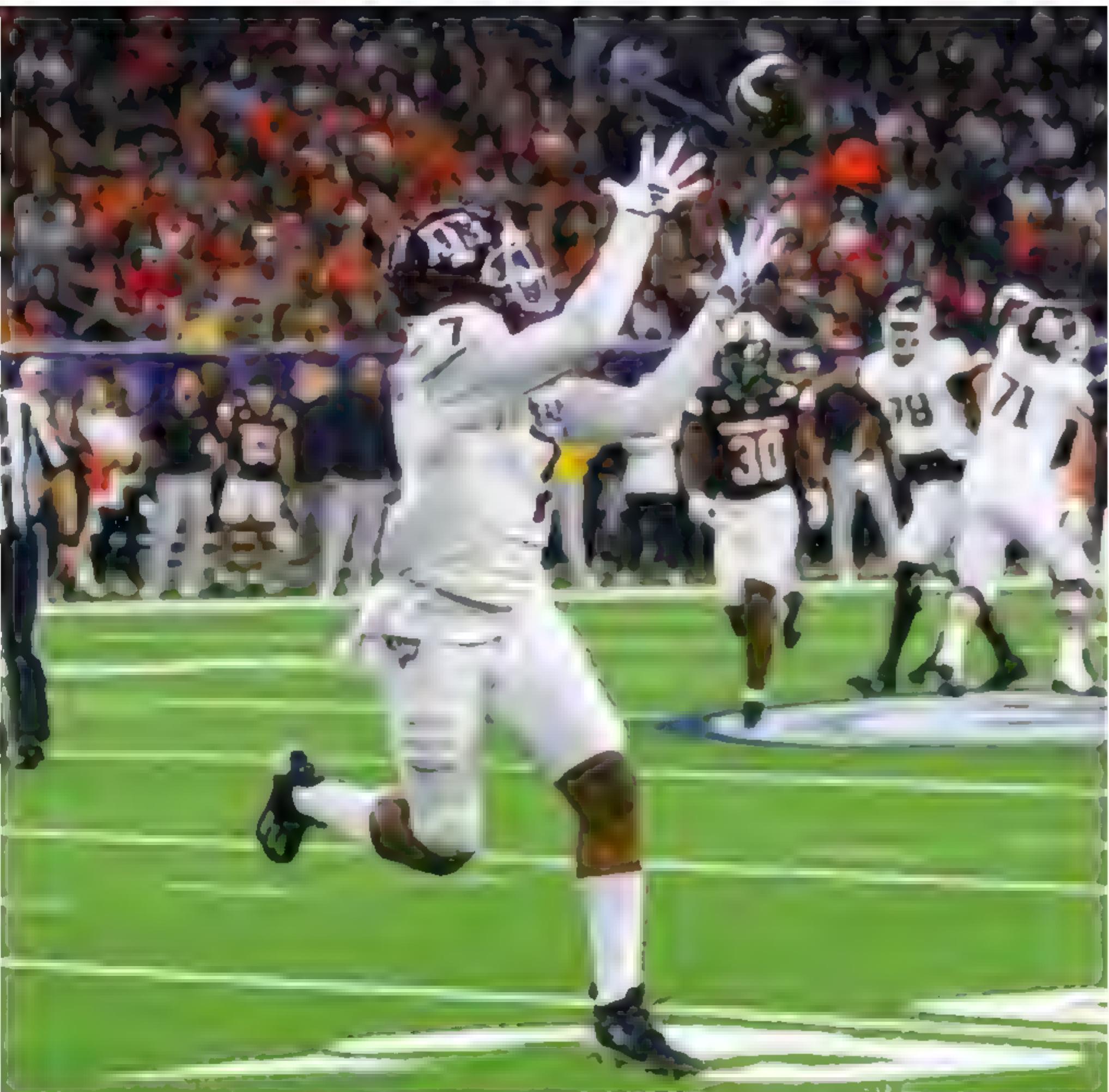
The Aggies trailed 24-6 at the half, as they had to settle for two Randy Bond field goals. On the other hand, Dalton Brooks got his first career interception to

start the second half and the Aggies took advantage by driving the ball 60 yards and Amari Daniels capped off the drive with the Aggies' first touchdown.

Marcel Reed scored his first career rushing touchdown on a 20-yard scamper that drew the Aggies within nine 31-20 in the third quarter. However, a fumble deep inside the Cowboys' territory in the fourth quarter would prove costly as the Aggies looked to get back into the game.

Randy Bond kicked a 51- yard field goal that bounced off the crossbar and through to get us within eight points, but a desperation pass to the goal line as time expired was intercepted and the game ended with a score of 31-23.

The Aggies gave it their all and fought to the end but it wasn't enough. The game allowed several of our players who have played behind starters to show what they could do and gain valuable experience. As the clock went to zeros it was the end of one chapter, yet it is also the beginning of a new chapter and with Mike Elko at the helm the future looks bright. ■





STACKING IT UP

How the Ags' 2024 recruiting class ranks in the SEC.

1. G
2. A
3. T
4. LSU
5. O
6. A
7. T
8. G
9. A
10. S

RECRUITING CLASS 2024



PHOTO COURTESY OF PURDUE ATHLETICS

SIGNED FEB. 7, 2024

ASHTON
BETHEL-ROMAN

POSITION	WIDE RECEIVER
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	175
HIGH SCHOOL	TEXAS RIDGE POINT
HOMETOWN	MISSOURI CITY, TX

Had over 2,000 yards receiving in high school including 17 touchdown catches. Dual sport athlete in high school who set long jump records and ran the 200. His father was a ten-year veteran in the NFL.

ROBERT
BOURDON

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'6"
WEIGHT	305
HIGH SCHOOL	COLLIERVILLE
HOMETOWN	COLLIERVILLE, TN

Committed to Elko at Duke and switched to A&M. Played lacrosse in high school. Elko said he has a promising future at Texas A&M with great athletic ability, Elko sees him playing tackle for the Aggies.

TERRY
BUSSEY

POSITION	ATHLETE
HEIGHT	6'0"
WEIGHT	190
HIGH SCHOOL	TIMPSON
HOMETOWN	TIMPSON, TX

Ranked as the #1 athlete in the nation. Nephew of Aggie great Domingo Bryant. Named Mr. Texas Football by Dave Campbell's Texas Football as a junior. Threw for over 2,000 yards and rushed for over 1,300. Threw for 28 TD's and rushed for 19 as a senior.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KANSAS ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSCO ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PINE TREE ISD

2024 EARLY SIGNING PERIOD

PAPA

AHFUA

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'4"
WEIGHT	285
HIGH SCHOOL	O'DEA
HOMETOWN	SEATTLE, WA
2024 Army All-American Bowl and Polynesian Bowl selection; Was named All-Metro Offensive Lineman of the Year and earned First Team All-Metro Offensive Tackle honors as a senior.	

ERNEST

CAMPBELL

POSITION	WIDE RECEIVER
HEIGHT	5'9"
WEIGHT	145
HIGH SCHOOL	REFUGIO
HOMETOWN	REFUGIO, TX
As a senior he helped lead Refugio to a 12-2 record; In 2022, he recorded 35 catches for 597 yards, while adding 277 yards rushing; Won the UIL 2A state 100m title as a junior (10.22) and sophomore (10.32).	

MYLES

DAVIS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK
HEIGHT	6'2"
WEIGHT	200
HIGH SCHOOL	JUDSON
HOMETOWN	CONVERSE, TX
A dynamic two-way player and kick returner; Totaled nearly 85 tackles, 12 passes defensed and six interceptions, while registering 421 all-purpose yards in his career.	

DEALYN

EVANS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	270
HIGH SCHOOL	PINE TREE
HOMETOWN	LONGVIEW, TX
2024 Under Armour All-American Bowl selection; In 2023 he recorded 58 tackles, 8.0 tackles for loss and 4.0 sacks to earn first team all-district honors; Multi-sport athlete.	

ASHTON

FUNK

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'7"
WEIGHT	305
HIGH SCHOOL	TOMPKINS
HOMETOWN	KATY, TX
2023 Houston TD Club Offensive Player of the Year Finalist; As a junior he was a UIL District 19-6A First Team selection and TSWA Class 6A First Team All-State selection.	

BLAKE

IVY

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'4"
WEIGHT	295
HIGH SCHOOL	CLEAR SPRINGS
HOMETOWN	LEAGUE CITY, TX
2024 Under Armour All-American Bowl selection; Three-year varsity starter at Clear Springs, including starting at right tackle as a sophomore and junior before moving to left tackle as a senior.	

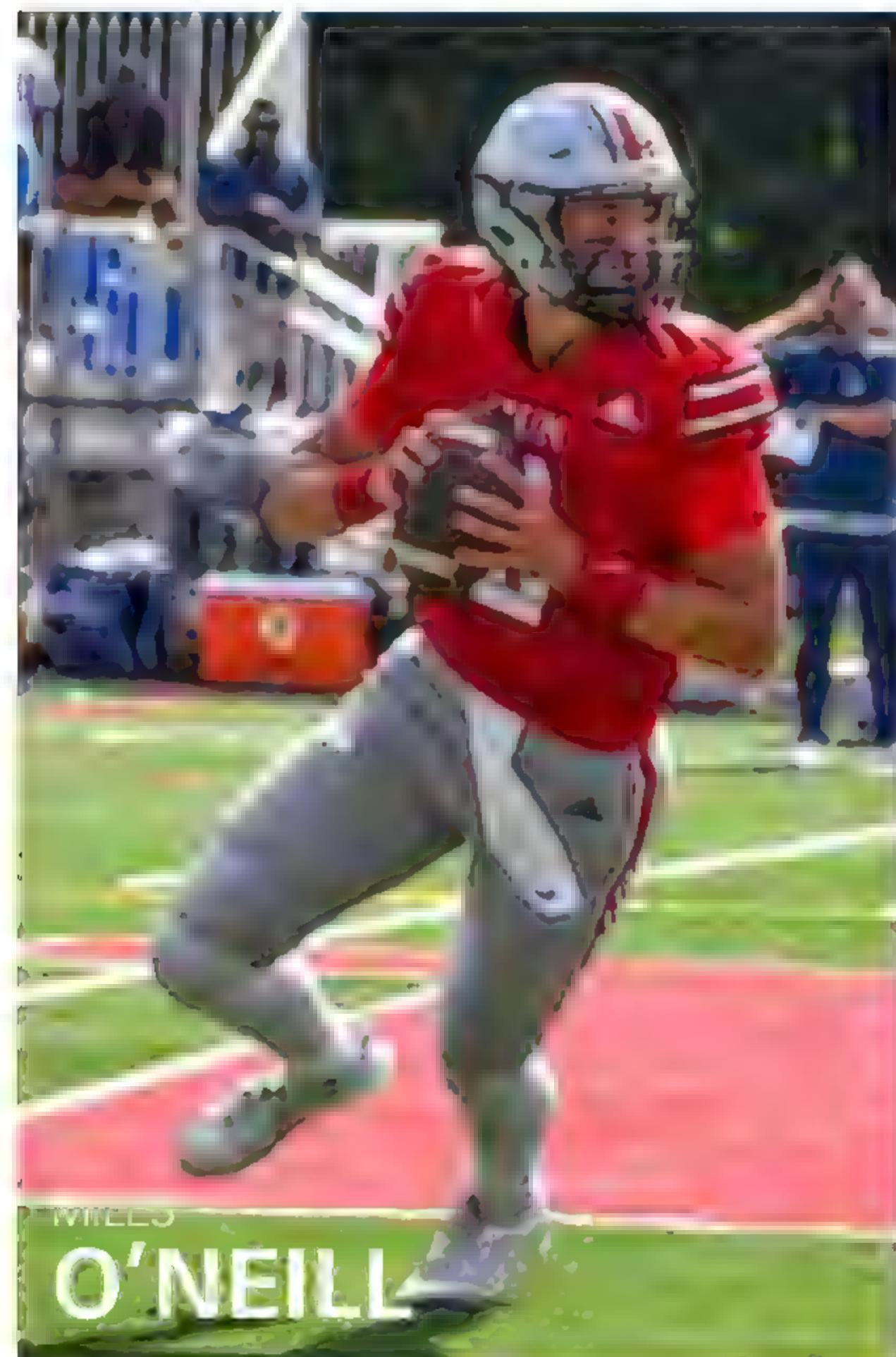


PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON SKINNER



PHOTO COURTESY OF O'DEA HIGH SCHOOL



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARROLLWOOD DAY HIGH SCHOOL

KENDALL

JACKSON

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'4"
WEIGHT	260
HIGH SCHOOL	BUCHHOLZ
HOMETOWN	GAINESVILLE, FL
Totaled nearly 150 career tackles, while helping lead Buchholz to numerous deep runs in the FHSAA state championships; As a senior he made 50 tackles, including 15 solo takedowns, 3.0 sacks and 14 hurries.	

TRISTAN

JERNIGAN

POSITION	LINEBACKER
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	220
HIGH SCHOOL	TUPELO
HOMETOWN	TUPELO, MS
As a senior he totaled 81 tackles, including 45 solo take downs and 6.0 tackles for loss, while registering 3.0 sacks and one interception returned for 60 yards.	

ERIC

KARNER

POSITION	TIGHT END
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	225
HIGH SCHOOL	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
HOMETOWN	ELMHURST, IL
Totaled 24 catches for 435 yards and seven touchdowns during his career; Helped lead his team to a 9-3 record and a state quarterfinals appearance in 2023; As a junior, he had 12 catches for 196 yards and three TDs.	

JORDAN

LOCKHART

POSITION	LINEBACKER
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	225
HIGH SCHOOL	ST. JOHN BOSCO
HOMETOWN	REDLANDS, CA
2024 Polynesian Bowl selection; Amassed 149 tackles, including 77 solo takedowns, 10.0 sacks and three forced fumbles during his career; In 2023, he recorded 77 tackles, including 43 solo takedowns and 5.0 sacks.	

MILES

O'NEILL

POSITION	QUARTERBACK
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	230
HIGH SCHOOL	HUN SCHOOL
HOMETOWN	MARBLEHEAD, MA
Completed 258-of-357 passes for 4,332 yards and 43 touchdowns as a two-year starter; named the New Jersey Prep A Offensive Player of the Year.	

JORDAN

PRIDE

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK
HEIGHT	6'2"
WEIGHT	185
HIGH SCHOOL	BLOUNTSVILLE
HOMETOWN	BLOUNTSVILLE, FL
2024 Army All-American Bowl and Polynesian Bowl selection; multi-sport athlete and two-way player; Recorded 11 tackles, including six solo takedowns, while defending six passes with one interception as a senior.	

IZAIAH

WILLIAMS

POSITION	WIDE RECEIVER
HEIGHT	6'0"
WEIGHT	172
HIGH SCHOOL	CARROLLWOOD DAY
HOMETOWN	TAMPA, FL
In 2023, he caught 44 passes for 904 yards and 11 touchdowns, while making 20 tackles, 1.0 sack and two interceptions on defense; Also runs track boasting a personal best 10.94 in the 100m.	

SOLOMON

WILLIAMS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'3"
WEIGHT	250
HIGH SCHOOL	CARROLLWOOD DAY
HOMETOWN	TAMPA, FL
Totaled 61 tackles, including 32.0 tackles for loss and 15.5 sacks with one forced fumble as a junior; A dual-sport athlete that also plays basketball.	



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOMPINKS HIGH SCHOOL

2024 SPRING NEWCOMERS

CYRUS

ALLEN



POSITION WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT 6'0" WEIGHT 177

HIGH SCHOOL LANDRY-WALKER

HOMETOWN NEW ORLEANS, LA

TRANSFER LOUISIANA TECH

Started 11 games in 2023, 46 catches for 778 yards and 4 TD's Had over 100 yards receiving in three games.

JABRE

BARBER



POSITION WIDE RECEIVER

HEIGHT 5'10" WEIGHT 174

HIGH SCHOOL DOTHAN

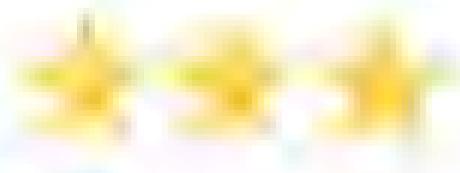
HOMETOWN DOTHAN, AL

TRANSFER TROY

Played three seasons at Troy. In 2023 he had 75 catches for 999 yards and five TD's. Looked at Florida St, South Carolina and Kansas St before committing to A&M.

DERRICK

GRAHAM



POSITION OFFENSIVE LINE

HEIGHT 6'4" WEIGHT 314

HIGH SCHOOL LAKE MINNEOLA

HOMETOWN LAKE MINNEOLA, FL

TRANSFER TROY

Spent 4 seasons at Troy and started as a true freshman at right tackle. Started all 14 games at left tackle in 2023 and even caught a touchdown pass vs Duke in the Birmingham Bowl.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOWLING GREEN ATHLETICS



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN SHEPHERD/UAB ATHLETICS

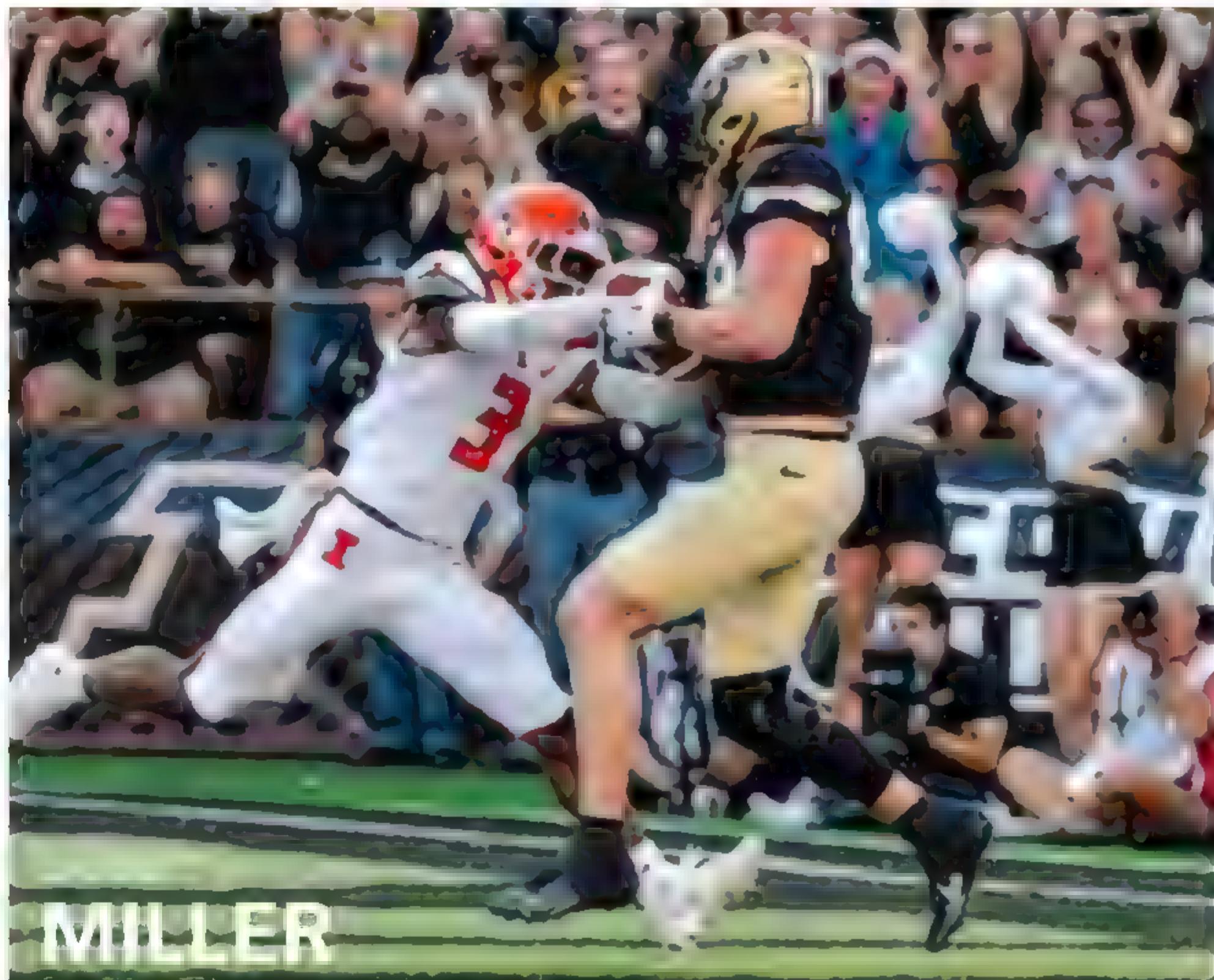


PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY ATHLETICS

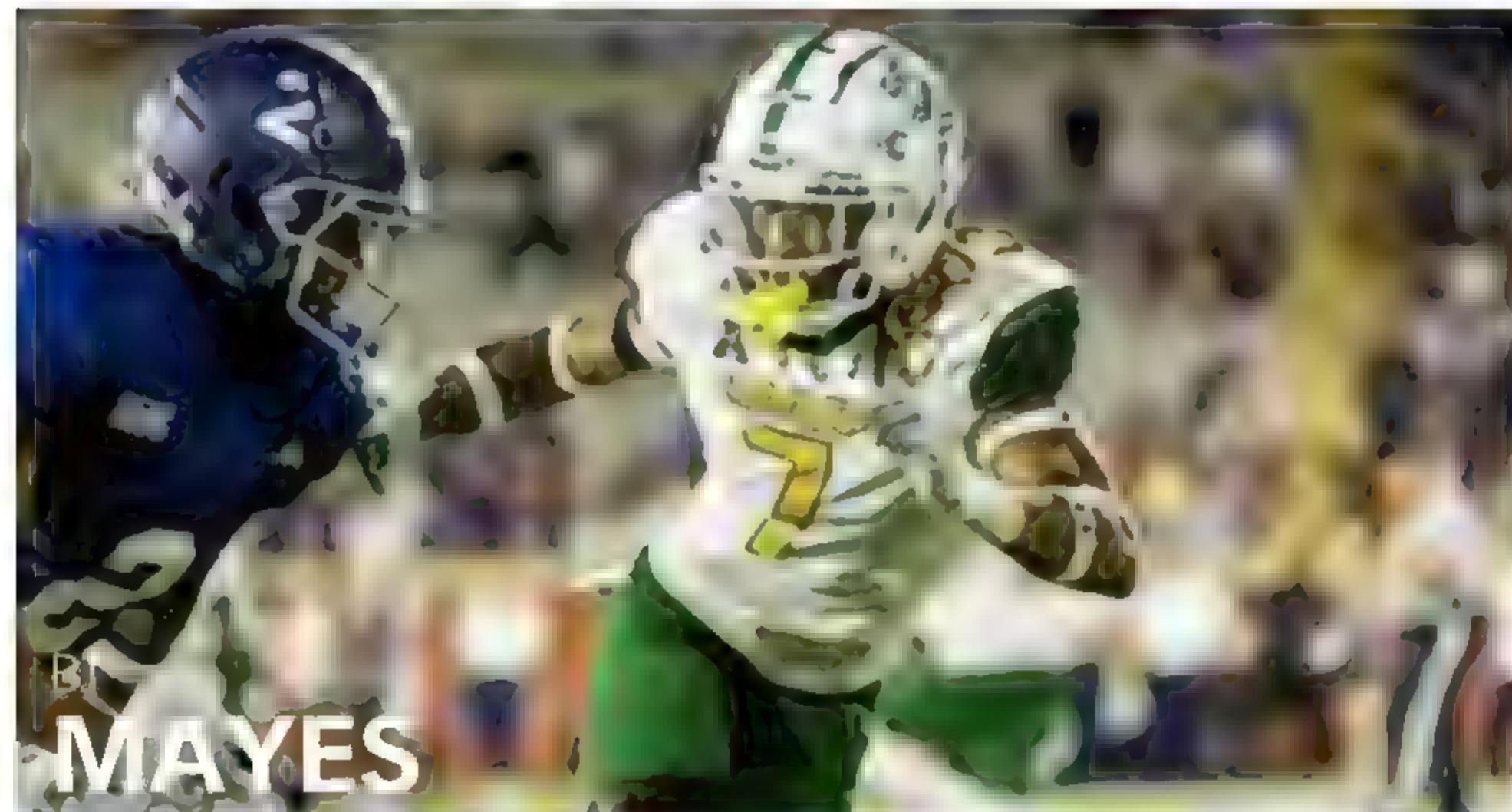


PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY ATHLETICS

PHOTO COURTESY OF LA TECH ATHLETICS

PHOTO COURTESY OF PURDUE ATHLETICS

JAYDON
HILL



POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT 6'0" WEIGHT 195

HIGH SCHOOL BOB JONES

HOMETOWN HUNTSVILLE, AL

TRANSFER FLORIDA

Spent 5 seasons in Florida earned a medical redshirt in 2021. Started 11 games in 2023. Had 39 tackles including 4 TFL and two sacks. Had 88 tackles during his 4 seasons including 2 INT's and a TD.

DORIAN
HINTON



POSITION OFFENSIVE LINE

HEIGHT 6'4" WEIGHT 317

HIGH SCHOOL NAPLES

HOMETOWN NAPLES, FL

TRANSFER FAU

Spent five seasons at Florida Atlantic (redshirted in 2019) In 2023 he played all 12 games last season finishing with an impressive 85.7 pass-blocking grade.

ALEX
HOWARD



POSITION LINEBACKER

HEIGHT 6'2" WEIGHT 230

HIGH SCHOOL MOUNT HEALTHY

HOMETOWN CINCINNATI, OH

TRANSFER YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Played 4 years at Youngstown; Played in 13 games in 2023 Had a total of 76 tackles 9.5 TFL

CASHIUS
HOWELL



POSITION DEFENSIVE LINE

HEIGHT 6'4" WEIGHT 235

HIGH SCHOOL ROCKHURST

HOMETOWN KANSAS CITY, MO

TRANSFER BOWLING GREEN

Spent three seasons at Bowling Green. He had ten starts in 2023 and had 9.5 sacks (tied for No. 16 nationally) He had 27 tackles and one forced fumble. He had 55 tackles during his career at BG.

RODAS
JOHNSON



POSITION DEFENSIVE LINE

HEIGHT 6'2" WEIGHT 295

HIGH SCHOOL ST. FRANCIS DESALES

HOMETOWN COLUMBUS, OH

TRANSFER WISCONSIN

He spent 5 seasons in Wisconsin In 2023 he had 19 tackles including 3 TFL. He had 50 tackles during his career including 10 TFL and 2.5 sacks.

TREY
JONES III



POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT 6'2" WEIGHT 215

HIGH SCHOOL WETUMPKA

HOMETOWN WETUMPKA, AL

TRANSFER CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Played 5 seasons at CMU. In 2023 had 66 tackles and one interception and 2.5 TFL

WILL
LEE III



POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT 6'3" WEIGHT 185

HIGH SCHOOL KIRKWOOD

HOMETOWN KIRKLAND, MO

TRANSFER KANSAS STATE

Played 1 year at Iowa Western Community College; Played in ten games for K St in 2023 Had 42 tackles and two interceptions.

BJ
MAYES



POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK

HEIGHT 6'1" WEIGHT 185

HIGH SCHOOL HOUSTON HEIGHTS

HOMETOWN HOUSTON

TRANSFER UAB

He spent 2 years at Incarnate Word and last season at UAB. He made 30 tackles with 1 interception in 2022 and 41 tackles with 2 interceptions and 10 pass breakups in 2023.

GARRETT
MILLER



POSITION TIGHT END

HEIGHT 6'5" WEIGHT 250

HIGH SCHOOL ROUND ROCK

HOMETOWN ROUND ROCK, TX

TRANSFER PURDUE

Had 30 catches in 2023 for 243 yards and two TD's. Had 51 catches during career at Purdue with 5 TD's

MARCUS

RATCLIFFE

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK
HEIGHT	6'3"
WEIGHT	210
HIGH SCHOOL	CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC
HOMETOWN	CHULA VISTA, CA
TRANSFER	SAN DIEGO STATE
<p>Played one year for the Aztecs. Started in 11 of 12 games in 2023 recording 51 tackles including 1.5 TFL and One Interception. Earned SDSU Outstanding Freshman honor.</p>	

AR'MAJ

REED-ADAMS

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	325
HIGH SCHOOL	DESOTO
HOMETOWN	DESOTO, TX
TRANSFER	KANSAS
<p>He spent four seasons in Kansas. He played left guard and right tackle during his 11 starts in 2023. He also played in 13 games in 2022. He will have one year of eligibility remaining.</p>	

DEZZ

RICKS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK
HEIGHT	6'1"
WEIGHT	185
HIGH SCHOOL	IMG ACADEMY
HOMETOWN	NORFOLK, VA
TRANSFER	ALABAMA
<p>Spent last season with the Crimson Tide. He was the No. 17 player on the ESPN300 out of high school. Played special teams in two games and in secondary late in one game.</p>	

DONOVAN

SAUNDERS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK
HEIGHT	6'3"
WEIGHT	185
HIGH SCHOOL	CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC
HOMETOWN	SAN DIEGO, CA
TRANSFER	CAL POLY
<p>Played 2 seasons for Cal Poly. Had 17 tackles with one interception. Looked at Utah, Washington and TCU before committing to the Aggies.</p>	

NIC

SCOURTON

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE
HEIGHT	6'4"
WEIGHT	280
HIGH SCHOOL	BRYAN
HOMETOWN	BRYAN, TX
TRANSFER	PURDUE
<p>Had 50 tackles in 2023 with ten sacks and a forced fumble. He played two years at Purdue with a total of 72 tackles.</p>	

E.J.

SMITH

POSITION	RUNNING BACK
HEIGHT	6'0"
WEIGHT	210
HIGH SCHOOL	JESUIT COLLEGE PREP
HOMETOWN	DALLAS, TX
TRANSFER	STANFORD
<p>Son of Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith. Played 4 seasons at Stanford. In 2023 he rushed for 218 yards on 53 carries with one touchdown. Caught 33 passes for 242 yards. Accumulated 557 yards on the ground and 386 yards in the air.</p>	

TRE

WATSON

POSITION	TIGHT END
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	245
HIGH SCHOOL	CLEVELAND
HOMETOWN	RIO RANCHO, NM
TRANSFER	FRESNO STATE
<p>In 2023 he had 38 catches for 378 yards and four touchdowns. He was headed to Washington before Kalen DeBoer left for Bama. He also held offers from Cal and UCLA.</p>	

SCOOBY

WILLIAMS

POSITION	LINEBACKER
HEIGHT	6'2"
WEIGHT	230
HIGH SCHOOL	RAMSAY
HOMETOWN	BIRMINGHAM, AL
TRANSFER	FLORIDA
<p>Played 3 seasons in Gainesville. In 2023 he had 52 tackles, one sack and two forced fumbles. He had 69 tackles during his career. He was the #4 edge-rushing recruit in the country out of high school.</p>	

DE'RICKEY

WRIGHT

POSITION	SAFETY
HEIGHT	6'5"
WEIGHT	210
HIGH SCHOOL	GADSDEN CITY
HOMETOWN	GADSDEN, AL
TRANSFER	VANDERBILT
<p>Played 4 years at Vandy Had 46 tackles in 2023 with 2 interceptions. He had a total of 131 tackles with 5 interceptions during his career at Vandy.</p>	

JARED **ZIRKEL**

POSITION KICKER

HEIGHT 6'3" WEIGHT 185

HIGH SCHOOL TIVY

HOMETOWN KERRVILLE, TX

TRANSFER GEORGIA

Played three seasons at Georgia. In 2023 he played in 14 games for the Bulldogs including the SEC Championship and the Orange Bowl. He had 103 kickoffs 67 of which resulted in touchbacks.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VANDERBILT ATHLETICS



RE
WATSON

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRESNO STATE ATHLETICS



RE
SMITH

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN AMBROSE - STANFORD ATHLETICS



TEXAS A & M

REC SPORTS

DISCOVER YOUR REC SPORTS LIFE

STUDENT REC CENTER



SOUTHSIDE REC CENTER



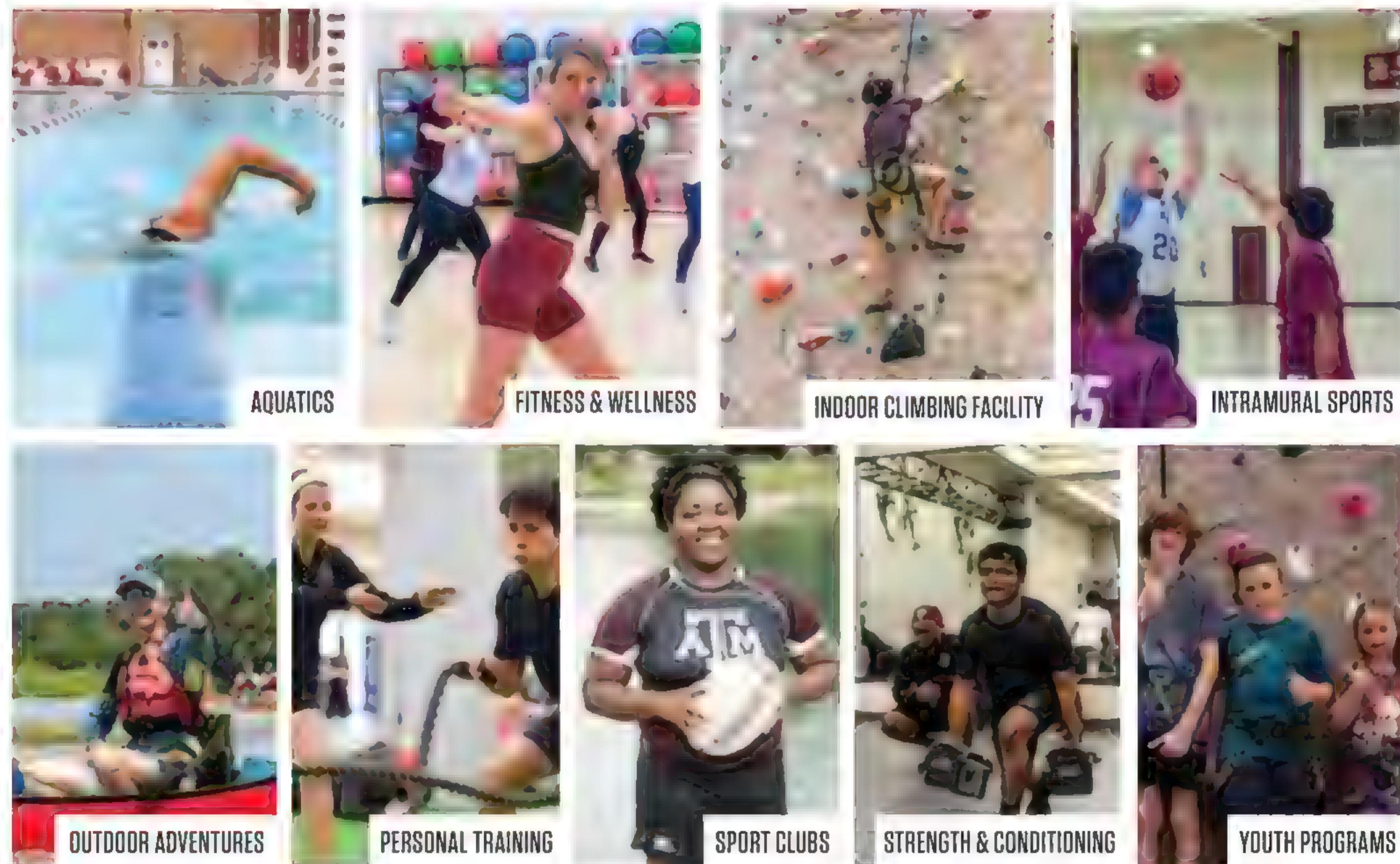
POLO ROAD REC CENTER



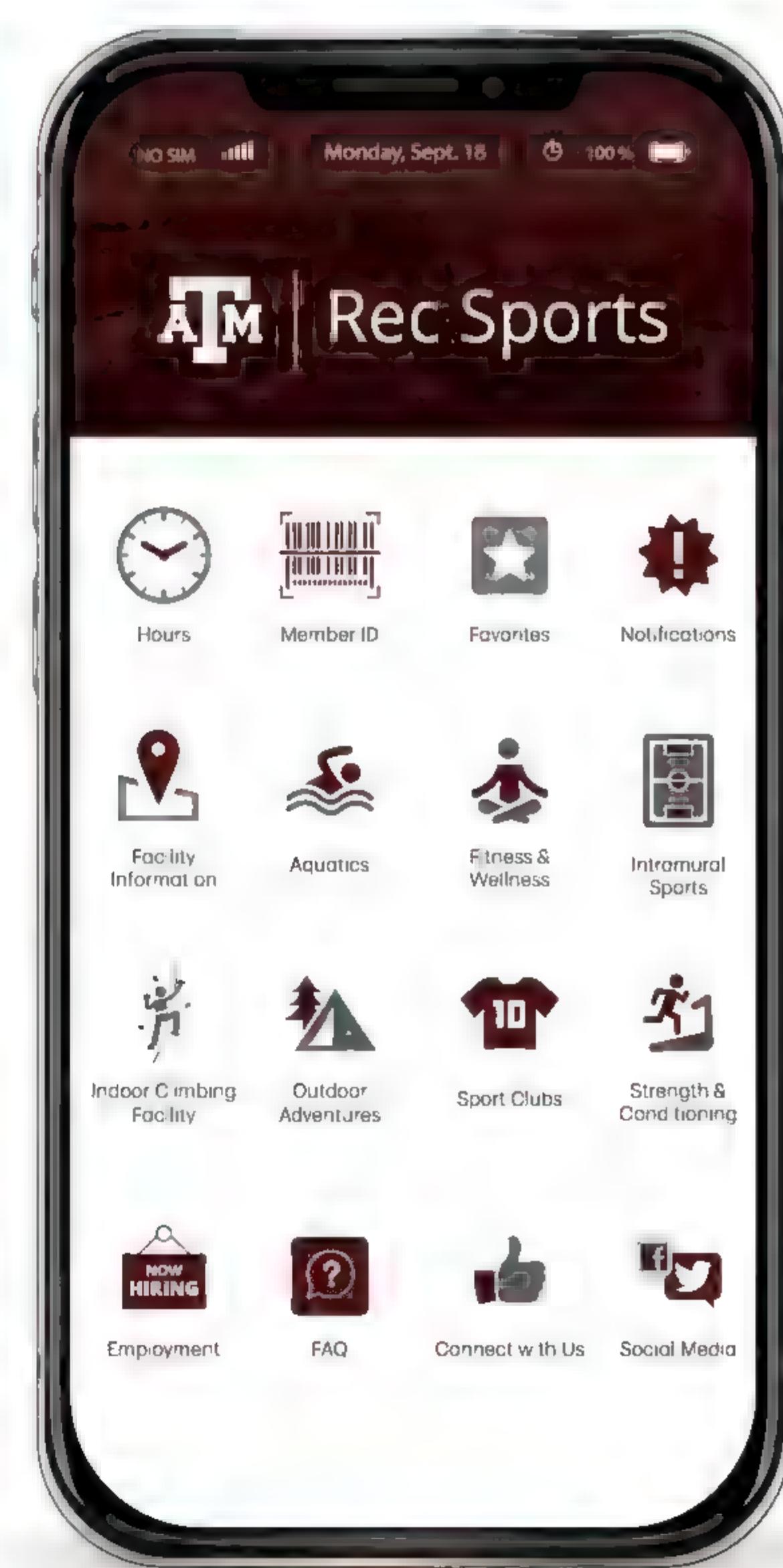
PENBERTHY REC SPORTS COMPLEX



PEAR BUILDING & TENNIS COURTS



REC SPORTS IS HIRING



DOWNLOAD
THE REC SPORTS APP



Scan the QR code above or visit recsports.tamu.edu/app for more details.



Rec Sports

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

POLO CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

One of the best parts about our sport clubs is that not only do they give students a chance to compete at the highest level, but they also allow student-athletes to learn how to run an organization. When we reached out to Yada van Noort to ask about the Polo Club, not only did we get great information about the club, but we found out how beneficial joining the club and becoming an officer has been in her life.

The Polo club was founded in 1967, but they got their home arena in 2016 to house and operate their own horses. The club is thriving with both experienced and novice members who compete in competitions under the United States Polo Association. In fact, the women's team traveled to Virginia last year and won the 2023 Women's National Championship.

Even though the team has reached the pinnacle of the Polo world, they are still welcoming new members that have little to no experience. Van Noort said, "I am actually among one of the people who joined the club without any

prior polo experience, so I am not on our competitive team. I did have 8 years of English riding experience prior to joining, so I have been mostly learning about game strategy and getting better at hitting the ball during my time here. My favorite thing about being an officer of the Polo Club is getting to teach new members how to ride and the basics of playing polo."

Van Noort was a general member as a freshman but became the treasurer for the club in her second year. She was secretary last season and is the president of the club this year. She told us, "My favorite thing about being president is having a fantastic officer team to back me up and working with our club members and competitive team members to continue to grow the club and leave it even better than we found it."

According to van Noort, the vast majority of their members had no polo experience before joining the club. Some of them didn't even know how to ride a horse before joining! The club hosts an

Open Ride event on the second week of each semester. For just \$5, students and staff can visit the barn and ride one of the horses and get a taste of what the club has to offer. Van Noort said, "Most people join because they realize how much fun it is to ride and play on our horses, and they stay because of the friendly atmosphere we work hard to foster around the barn."

The Polo Club is a perfect example of how our student-athletes can compete at the highest level and at the same time give student-athletes like van Noort invaluable experience on how to run a successful organization.



BASEBALL CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

It is springtime in Aggieland and that means the start of Aggie Baseball. However, the men taking the field at Blue Bell Park are not the only ones suited up in maroon and white to play on the diamond this spring. The Texas A&M club baseball team, which started in 2001, will be competing as well for the school we love so well.

Our club team plays in the National Club Baseball Association. The Aggies are in a conference made up of the University of Texas, Texas State, Stephen F. Austin, and Baylor University. The team has gone undefeated in conference play the last two years. When you win your conference, you advance to play in the regional championship. The Aggies play in the Gulf Coast Region. If you win the regional tournament, you get to play in the World Series, which is comprised of the eight regional winners.

President Wes Conquest explained, "Since I've been on the team (last 3 years), we have dominated Texas, lost

to LSU in the regional tournament every year and had some very heated games with SMU." We asked him why he joined the team and he said, "I joined the club because I really missed the game of baseball. It has been my passion and stress relief for my entire life. I now I get to represent Texas A&M while playing the game I love."

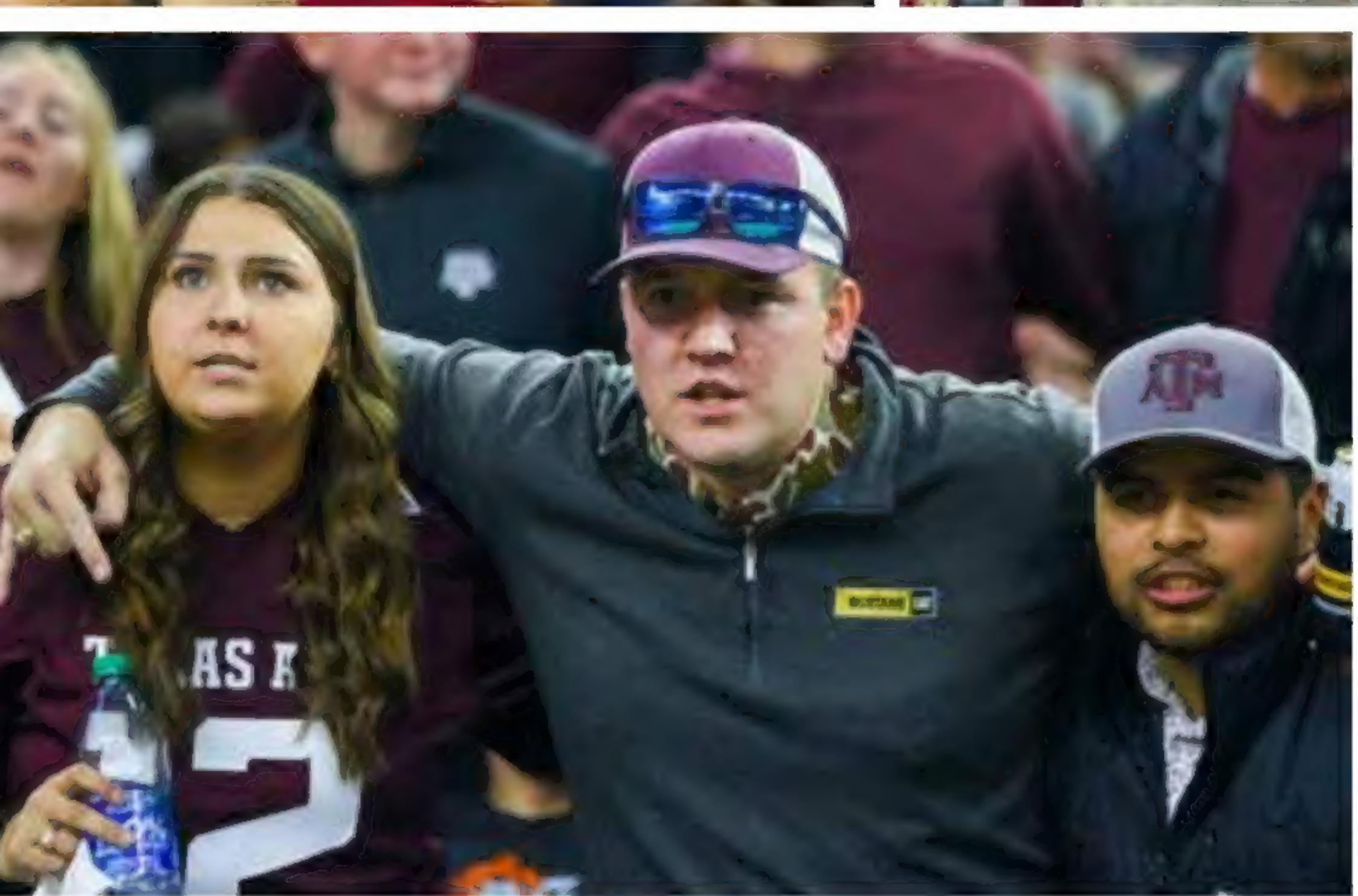
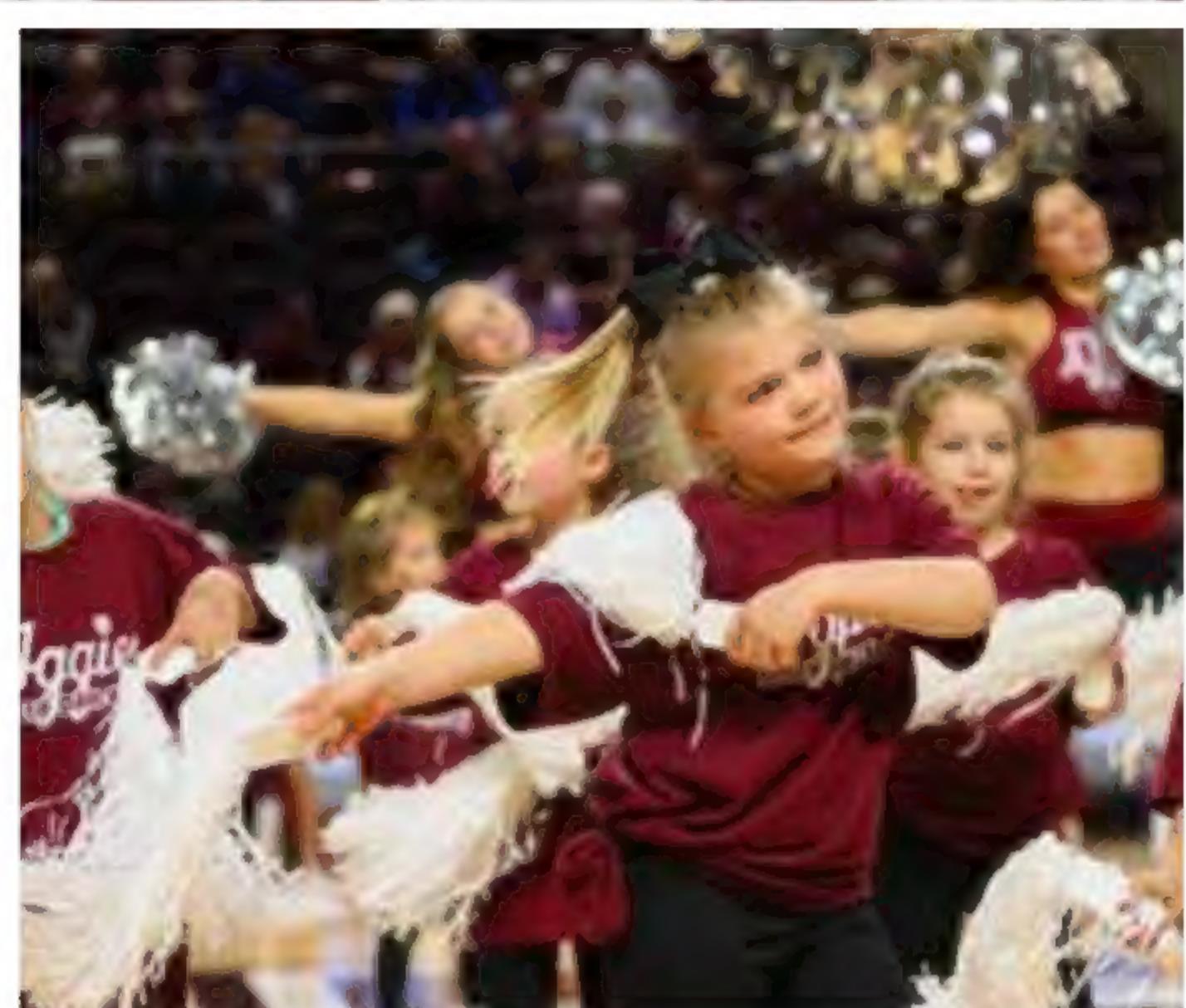
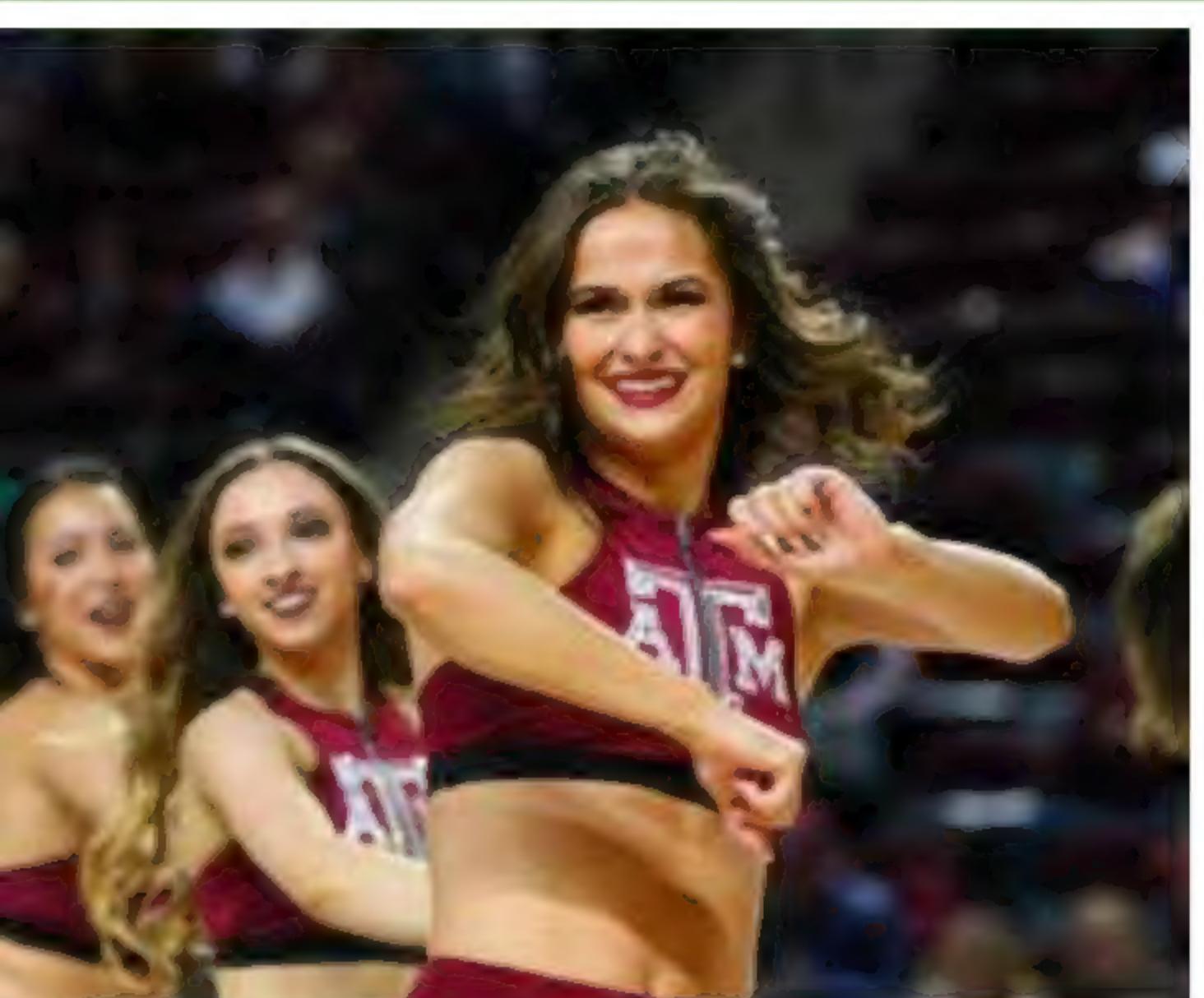
The team practices every Tuesday and Thursday, but the players hit and lift on their own during the week. There are between 20-25 members and the team is very competitive; all the players have prior varsity or collegiate baseball experience. Conquest said, "Members join the club for various reasons, including a love for baseball, the desire to continue playing competitively at the collegiate level, building friendships with like-minded individuals, and representing Texas A&M in the sports community."

The team's main rivals on the diamond are Texas, LSU, and SMU. The Aggies take on the Horns April 20-21, and the team

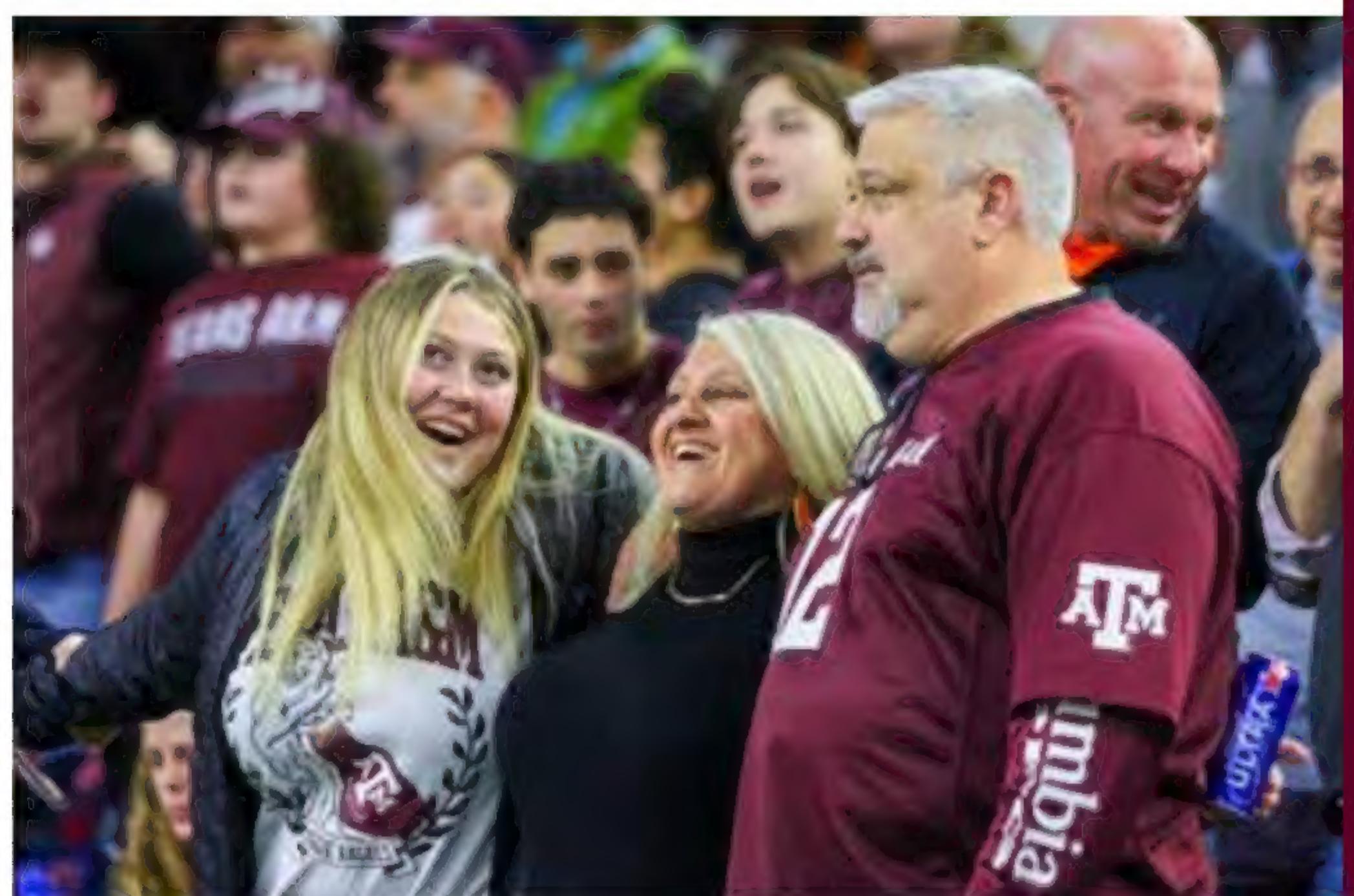
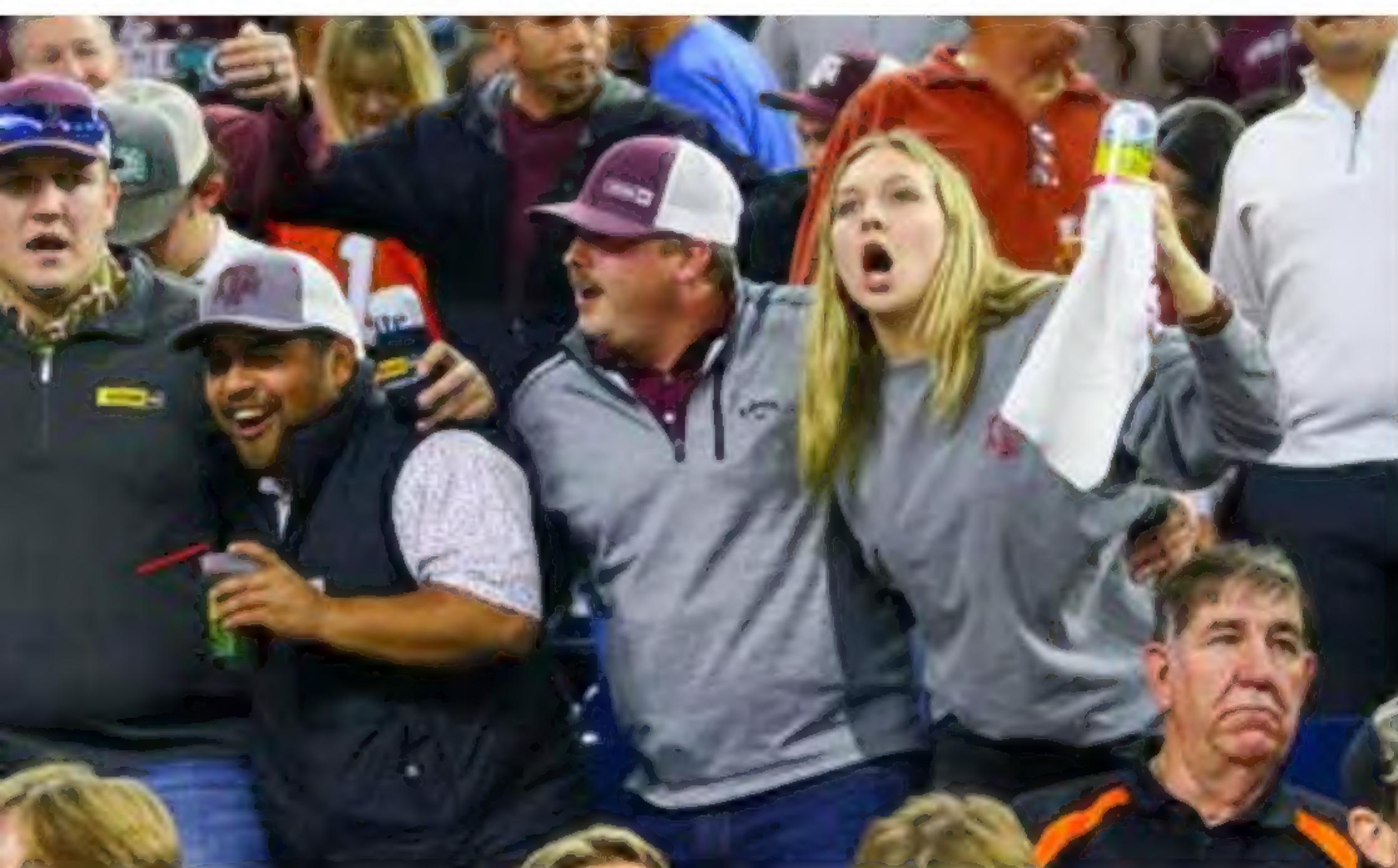
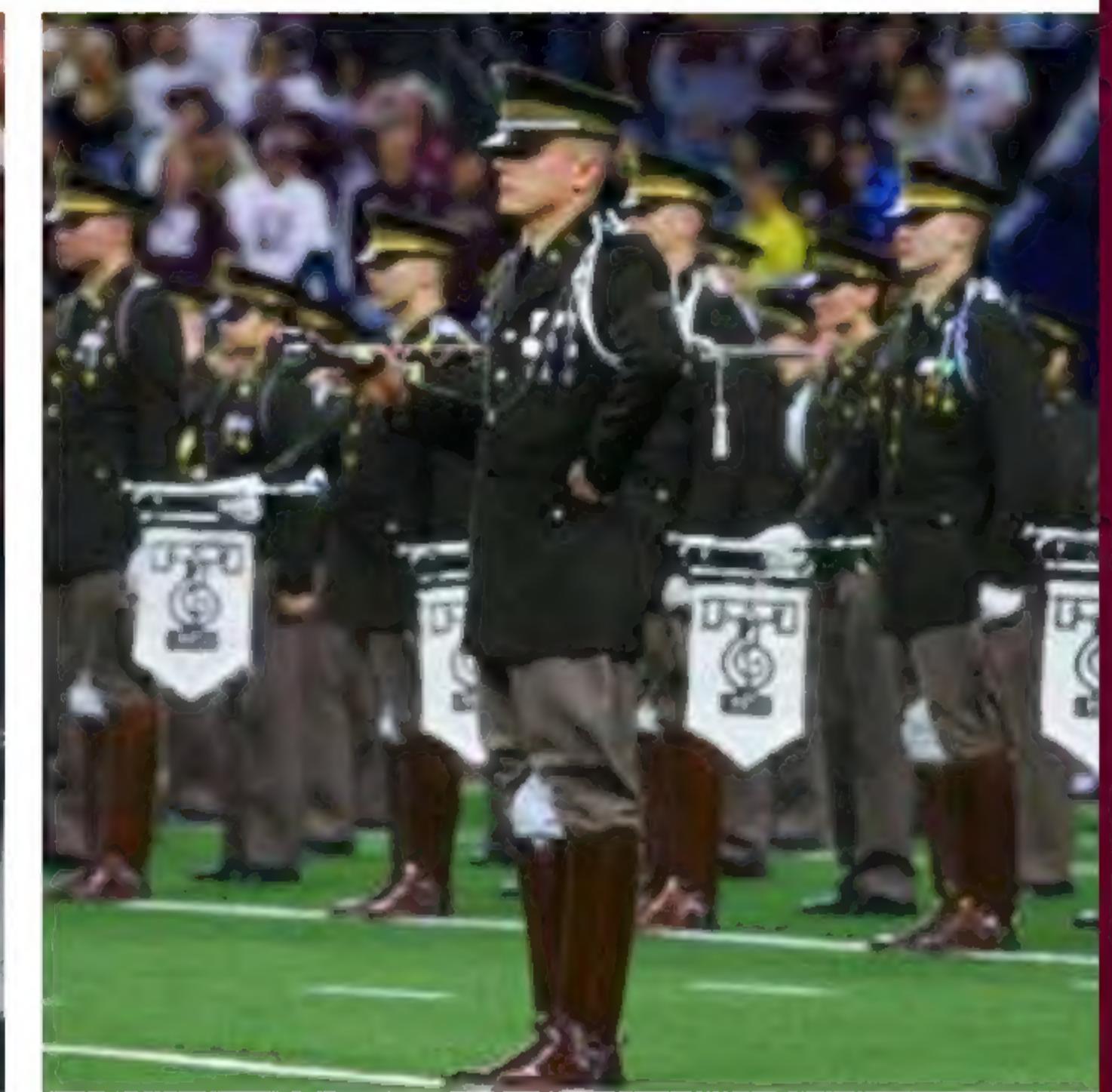
is looking forward to hosting the series this spring. We asked Conquest what his favorite memory was of being a part of the team and he told us, "Best moment since I've been on the team is hitting a walk-off to beat Texas in one of our conference games last year."

The Aggies are looking forward to continuing their conference dominance again this spring, but for Conquest, it's more than just playing baseball. He said "My favorite thing about being on the team is the brotherhood I've established with the other guys on the team. Also being blessed enough to play competitive baseball at a high level when I thought I would be done forever after high school."

If you want to cheer on our club baseball team check out their spring schedule at <https://www.tamuclubbaseball.org/> Grab some peanuts and Cracker Jacks and root, root, root for the Aggies!



THE 12TH MAN



Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

PO BOX 6841 • BRYAN, TX 77805-6841
979-229-8046 | www.aggiemag.com

PRSR STD
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 69
COLLEGE STATION, TX

-  @aggiemag
-  @aggielandillustrated
-  Aggieland Illustrated Magazine

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL



PARAGON
FINANCIAL ADVISORS

FEE-ONLY WEALTH MANAGEMENT YOU CAN TRUST



WWW.PARAGON-ADV.COM | 979-693-3907

215 ROCK PRAIRIE ROAD COLLEGE STATION, TX 77845

FIND US ON:  